

STATE BUDGET 2013

Lots of pain, little gain

By **Ben Brennan**

REGIONAL South Australia has been abandoned by a state government looking to shore up votes ahead of an election, according to the member for Hammond.

"And you don't have to be Einstein to know where the votes are," Adrian Pederick said.

Mr Pederick said he welcomed the announcement that two timber hulled ferries would be replaced and said a boost to the Environment Protection Agency would be a plus, but took aim at the government for increasing debt and spending while cutting in the country.

"Primary industries, which is significant in this area, took another big hit at \$11.5 million and another 120 jobs gone," he said.

"Regional development are losing \$4 million, so what's the future of our Regional Development Australia offices?"

Mr Pederick said the only major spend out-side of the capital was a new road to the APY lands.

"It's just a pity that State Labor is more focuses on electoral outcomes than doing the right thing for the state," he

said. The Coomandook farmer and former shadow agriculture minister was not the only one criticising the city-centric nature of the Premier Jay

Weatherill's first budget as treasurer.

Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire said he believed the government had failed country areas, while the state's Local Government Association president David O'Loughlin said councils saw little good news in the budget.

"We didn't expect, given the government's recent financial laments that this would be a

giving budget and we were right," Mayor O'Loughlin said.

"Despite some minor tinkering, South Australian councils receive the lowest per capita funding from the State Government than any other state."



Not surprised: Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick says he expected the State Government would pay little regard to regional South Australia in this year's budget.