

## Marshall appointed new State Opposition Leader

LOCAL Liberal parliamentarians Adrian Pederick and Ivan Venning have been quick to show support for their party's new leadership team of Steven Marshall and Vicki Chapman.

Mr Marshall was unanimously appointed South Australia's new Opposition Leader yesterday morning, with Ms Chapman becoming his deputy by a margin of 10 votes to eight.

Iain Evans missed out after nominating for the deputy leadership, while Martin Hamilton-Smith chose not to run for either position.

Mr Pederick called the new team a formidable mix of youth and experience.

He commended former leader Isobel Redmond, who he said "did a great job but got caught up in events", and said the party was now ready to stand united against the Labor Government.

"This will be the team taking us through to the 2014 election," he said.

"People are crying out for a change of government and we're working towards that goal."

The new leader is likely to shuffle his team's political portfolios later this week.

Mr Pederick said he was keen to remain responsible for agriculture, food, fisheries and forests, but that ulti-

mately he would do whatever was required to install the Liberal Government he said the State desperately needed.

Ms Redmond resigned as leader last week in the face of ongoing disunity and speculation about her leadership - particularly the possibility that former foreign minister Alexander Downer would be brought into State Parliament to lead the party.

There had been speculation that Mr Venning, who will step down at the next election, would be asked to retire early so Mr Downer could take over his seat.

But Mr Venning said while Mr Downer would be an asset to parliament, he had not been in contact with him and that, even if he were tapped on the shoulder in future, it would not be his call whether to step aside.

"The people who elected me, particularly the on-the-ground people here, they would have to make that decision," he said.

"They're happy that I go the whole term.

"As of (yesterday) morning, we move on."