

NEWS

Racing project still on track

RUMOURS abound over the state of the Gifford Hill horse racing and housing development at Murray Bridge but MP Adrian Pederick has urged people to have patience, saying work on the project is continuing steadily.

Member for Hammond Mr Pederick, who toured the site of the new Gifford Hill race-track last week with State Sports Minister Leon Bignell, said he did not believe there was any substance to rumours questioning the multi-million dollar project's viability.

"It's pretty well steady as she goes," Mr Pederick said.

"Like a lot of projects and business it's been impacted by the GFC (global financial cri-

sis) and business uncertainty in SA at the moment."

However, Mr Pederick said he had been told on the tour

that joint venture partners, Burke Urban and the Murray Bridge Racing Club, had just received another \$3 million from financiers and were making good progress on a job that was always going to take up to 30 years "to reach an end point".

Mr Pederick said he had asked Mr Bignell to reinforce the fact that Burke Urban and the racing club had embarked on a "visionary project" with little government support, while other major racing developments around the State had attract-

ed millions in Government assistance.

"The MBRC plans are great for the region and, above all, will create huge employment and tourism," he said.

"I was pleased the Minister accepted the invitation and

whilst the discussion was positive the Weatherill Labor Government needs to realise

what a huge opportunity this is for the Murraylands region."



On track: Murray Bridge Racing Club chairman Reg Nolan, Minister for Sport and Recreation Leon Bignell, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, deputy chairman Brenton Lewis and Thoroughbred Racing SA chief executive officer Jim Watters toured the Gifford Hill race track last week.