



Pederick slams rural commitment

MEMBER for Hammond and Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Adrian Pederick says there should have been more opportunity for some groups to amalgamate.

He said smaller animal industry sectors, including the SA Alpaca, Deer, Goat and Horse Industry Advisory Groups, would be disadvantaged.

“With all those groups, it’s important the government outlines a strategy on how these people are going to communicate with the sectors and with the public at large and also how they’re going to be able to have a strong voice to government,” Mr Pederick said.

“The agriculture sector is vital to this state and, in my view, the government shouldn’t be doing anything to lessen the outreach from the sector to the community so that people know exactly what’s going on in the industry right through the state.”

Mr Pederick said that, in regard to the Pastoral Board, he would be interested to see how the government planned to communicate with pastoralists into the future.

“Their population isn’t large, but they represent a vast amount of our space,” he said. “The main issue I’m interested in is how they’re going to pick up the activities of the Pastoral Board.”

He questioned what value the government put on agriculture in SA.

“You’ve got a government that was heavily reliant on the Olympic Dam expansion getting up and they’ve suddenly realised that hasn’t happened, so they’ve decided to put their faith in agriculture,” he said.

“But you’ve got to wonder how seriously they do look at the sector when they’re just having this huge reform and cutting a great range of boards across the portfolio area.”