

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Forestry SA just cash cow to Foley & Rann

The Rann Government must accept responsibility for their mismanagement of Forestry SA over the past eight years that has led to 130 jobs being axed from Carter Holt Harvey in Nangwarry yesterday.

Adrian Pederick, Shadow Minister for Forests said that the 130 job losses is shattering for this close knit community and follows 90 jobs cut at the same plant last year.

‘These job cuts are attributable to state government policy, which is to cash in state assets to conceal their own financial mismanagement,’ Mr Pederick said.

‘As well as bearing increasing costs, the timber industry’s secondary processors are being squeezed by declining timber quality because the Rann Government is pressing for shorter timber growth rotations.

‘Couple that with the Rann Government’s proposal to privatise Forestry SA and even the wider timber industry is on edge.

‘Forests Minister Caica together with the previous Forests Minister local member Rory McEwen have no clear plan for forestry in SA – except to sell as much timber as quickly as possible with no plan for future development of the industry in the south–east.

‘Treasurer Kevin Foley through his Forests Ministers has seen Forestry SA as a cash cow for his Treasury coffers.

‘The SA Liberal Party has been calling since 2006 for the redefining of Forestry SA’s Charter – calling for an acknowledgment of the timber industry’s importance to South Australia’s broader economy.

‘Forestry industry sources say 500 jobs have gone in the past two years alone, with the trend set to continue.

‘As for the displaced timber workers, we demand the Rann Government provide the same support and assistance provided to retrenched Mitsubishi workers.

‘The arrogant Rann Government has succeeded in getting offside with just about every sector of South Australian industry and services with its lack of consultation and ignorance about the issues important to country SA’.