

MEDIA RELEASE

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Liberals call for Select Committee into bumper harvest

Opposition spokesman for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Adrian Pederick, today called for the establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee into the handling of this year's record grain harvest.

The call comes after a number of issues have been raised by growers across the state throughout the harvest period.

For many growers the promise of a bumper crop was soured by events at storage and handling sites. Some smaller sites were closed exacerbating waiting times at the remaining silos.

There is also a belief by many farmers that inconsistency in grain classification due to visual assessment has cost them revenue.

'It is time to establish an independent forum to assess the management of this year's harvest,' Mr Pederick said.

'This will provide a transparent process to address the many issues that have been raised.

'I would like to see the terms of reference include an examination of delays in delivery of grain, classification methods and competition within the grain storage and handling sector.'

Mr Pederick announced today that he will be moving a motion in Parliament next Tuesday to establish the Select Committee.

'I am very happy to have the support of Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire on this issue. I note however that while he and the Liberal Party are prepared to take action on behalf of one of South Australia's most important industries, the Labor Party remains silent.

'Yet again the current Government is not interested in backing our state's farmers. I intend to give them the hearing they want on this issue,' Mr Pederick said.