

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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Labor clashes on marine parks

Labor is divided over the controversial marine parks issue.

Fisheries Minister Michael O'Brien made a pointed address to the Parliament today supporting the current fisheries management system and inferring that he opposed Labor's implementation of marine park sanctuary zones.

Mr O'Brien said:

"South Australia has a strong fisheries management base... which requires sustainable use, development and protection from over-fishing. This strong legislation, accompanied by the solid science of SARDI, has allowed South Australia to enjoy sustainable fisheries and regional economic development, and has also resulted in some of our world first management initiatives being recognised as international best practice." (Hansard, 23rd March 2011)

In a bizarre twist Environment Minister Paul Caica, an advocate for marine parks, responded:

"Quite simply, the establishment of representative marine parks in this state is not a fisheries management tool..." (Hansard, 23rd March 2011)

"Labor is wracked by divisions," Shadow Fisheries Minister Adrian Pederick said.

"We have Minister O'Brien from the Right faction openly attacking the policies of Minister Caica from the Left.

"Labor has shown a complete failure to listen to the community on the establishment of sanctuary zones in South Australia and now even its own Minister is opposing the implementation.

"Minister Caica must explain his bizarre comments. If marine parks are not a fisheries management tool – what on earth are they?

"Labor must now stop the implementation of marine park sanctuary zones until the concerns of the community and Labor's own Ministers can be addressed."