

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Pederick welcomes carbon tax exemption for farmers

SA farmers will be relieved to learn the federal government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) proposal will now exclude agriculture, says state opposition Agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick.

The federal Climate Change Minister Penny Wong has announced the change in response to pressure from the federal Liberal opposition who are seeking to get a better Emissions Trading Scheme deal for Australian industries.

Mr Pederick said he was pleased farmers would be able to claim carbon credits to help them offset increases in other farm production, storage and delivery costs.

'Farmers are at the mercy of numerous input costs such as fuel and transport that will be driven up by a carbon tax scheme. This at least gives them the opportunity to offset those costs,' said Mr Pederick.

'Without it, farm commodity prices would come under upward pressure and that in turn could affect their competitiveness against imports and at the same time harm exports.

'Australia undoubtedly has an important role to play in this global situation and this at least is in step with other major economies, including the US, Europe and Japan.