

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

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MP calls for a rethink on chicken farm decision

A council decision to approve a broiler chicken farm close to Wellington has raised the concern of local MP Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, whose electorate covers Wellington, has echoed the concerns of local residents and landowners who have objected to the development and decision process.

Mr Pederick said the Rural City of Murray Bridge Development Assessment Panel's narrow approval appeared to be at odds with other similar proposals and highlighted an anomaly in the system.

'This chicken farm will be a questionable two kilometres from the riverfront residences and neighbouring houses of the Wellington community – a community based entirely around river recreation and relaxed living,' Mr Pederick said.

'The developers concede that unpleasant smells will at times drift to those houses. It seems incongruous that there is a 10 kilometre buffer zone against intensive animal farming around Murray Bridge but only a two kilometre zone around Wellington and other small communities.

'I think the panel needs to explain why that is and how it could view this proposal so differently from a similar proposal for Woods Point, which was rejected.

'It is also worth noting that Wellington has an important place in the history and heritage of our state and is on a very busy tourism route.

'As the local member of state parliament and Shadow Agriculture Minister, I support developments of this kind but not at the expense of the very communities that make this wonderful region what it is.

'I call on the Development Assessment Panel to take another deeper and more balanced look at this proposal and, in particular, fully address the concerns raised by residents during the consultation and decision-making process.'