

MEDIA RELEASE

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Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Cod ban symptomatic of government disinterest

The state government's lack of investment in the recreational fishing industry has again spoiled the holidays for thousands of South Australians.

This was the response of Shadow Fisheries Minister Adrian Pederick to news that the state government has banned Murray Cod fishing in the river for the second year running.

'It's just another symptom of the Labor disease – reactionary policy.

'Other states have well-funded and successful restocking programs to maintain healthy stocks of native fish as well as provide support and assistance right across the recreational fishing sector.

'They are pro-active measures that ensure the sustainable growth of the single most popular recreational pastime in the country.

'The spin-off benefits to rural and regional communities are invaluable and recreational fishing's value as a family activity is incalculable.

'But far from supporting and developing recreational fishing, this government has treated it with disinterest and contempt.

'While the fat cat list in the public service has exploded, this government will not even commit enough money to fund a dedicated person for recreational fishing. Someone squeezes it into their busy day.

'A properly prepared and funded program will be of great benefit to the whole state – a true win-win for all.'