



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for
- The River Murray
- Sustainability and Climate Change

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Pederick urges farmers and rural businesses to speak to counsellors about EC

Local MP Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick has urged farmers and rural-based business people in the region who are suffering hardships brought on by the drought to discuss their situation with Rural Financial Counsellors, now numbering 17 around SA.

Mr Pederick said while the numbers of Exceptional Circumstances applications had increased, some of which did not meet the eligibility criteria, he was aware that many people were self-assessing while others were reluctant to make their difficulties known.

'The huge response to my initial invitation to farmers to attend a Rural Business Forum on the drought here in Murray Bridge last November indicated to me that drought-related problems were varied and widespread,' Mr Pederick said.

'While I am pleased that many farmers and rural business people have gained some relief from EC funding, I am concerned that others have not taken advantage of this program, which is in part their own accumulated taxes coming back to them in a time of need.'

Mr Pederick suggested anyone contemplating applying contact a counsellor first to discuss the possibilities informally before approaching their accountants.

SA rural counsellors can be contacted through 1800 836 211.

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