



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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Joining the dots of Country Health a 'dotty' plan - Pederick

People of country South Australia are being sold a pup on country health according to local MP, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

'While Health Minister John Hill desperately tries to convince the state's half a million country residents that he's done them all a favour, the vast majority of the rural medical community is abhorred by the plan,' Mr Pederick said.

'There was much concern around country hospital boards in late 2006 when it became apparent that certain parts of this grand plan were not being made known.

'Apart from the minister's glib assurances that there was nothing to worry about and everything would be better, boards were given little choice but to sign over their authority.

'Now, as the cold light of reality shines on this ill-conceived plan, we learn the true price of progress and listen with horror as many of those who were involved in what the minister calls 'consultation' declare they were hood-winked.

'In a presentation by Minister Hill to Riverland regional hospital boards on August 22nd, 2006, the following statement was made:-

"I would like all residents country (sic) knowing exactly what health services are available to them ... upfront and honest is what I want us to be ..."

'No doubt the minister will be disappointed that he and his cohorts fell well short of that goal.'

Mr Pederick said for the chosen few in two government-held electorates and two others in geographically fortunate locations, things will improve. But it will be at the expense of many others who will inevitably see the shrivelling and disappearance of their local health facility.

'In most country towns, institutions like the local hospital are the community's beating heart, and this plan will slowly and painfully crush it.

'Minister Hill's place in history is assured. He will ever be remembered as the architect of the biggest and most fraudulent blunder in SA Country Health.'

Mr Pederick said a petition is circulating country SA and he urges all residents to support its call for the government to withdraw the Country Health Plan. The petition is available through his office at 20 Mannum Rd Murray Bridge – phone 8531 1676.

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