

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mineral Resources Development – Forests

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Minister throws blanket of doubt over country jobs

Riverlanders can take no solace from the Minister for Agriculture's answer to a question in Parliament about the Loxton Research Centre.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture Adrian Pederick said Minister Caica's answer to his question was evasive and unhelpful, and leaves the Riverland people none the wiser about the consequences of changes at the centre.

Mr Pederick asked how many jobs would be lost to country SA as agricultural research and development as programs are relocated.

This follows news that four jobs will be lost from the Loxton Research Centre when it relocates its analytical crop management laboratory.

'Minister Caica agreed my information was correct but avoided answering the question. 'I ask the minister again – how many jobs will be lost to country SA through this change,' Mr Pederick said.

'Given the huge strain on Riverland communities with the lack of water for irrigation, this is an enormous and insensitive blow for them at the worst possible time.

'These sorts of establishments provide vital employment to other members of struggling Riverland farming families whose main source of income has literally dried up. It also denies country communities some cash inflow for their local economies.

'To take jobs away from the regions at this time shows this government's indifference.

'It is plainly apparent that the minister, this government and the local member have all abandoned her electorate, and for that matter the whole of country SA.

'For Minister Caica to so blatantly avoid my question shows either he doesn't know or doesn't want to stay. Either way it's very discouraging.

'I also ask the minister to tell country people how many of these jobs lost to the country will reappear in the city.'