



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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

Wednesday September 26th, 2006

Cries for help heard says Pederick

The cries for help from farmers in the region have been heard by the Federal Government who have responded quickly according to local State MP, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick said the news of the \$714million in drought assistance measures, on top of the \$430million announced last week, would be welcomed by South Australian farmers battling to hold out against the effects of a prolonged and record drought.

Increases to off-farm income and asset limits, the provision of immediate access to professional and planning advice and grants and training programs aimed at supporting irrigators were all positive measures by the Federal Government.

The addition of a further 28 counsellors, support officers and social workers was also a pro-active way to support the country's struggling farming communities.

'On top of these and other measures, the Federal Government has approved immediate interim support for all remaining agricultural land in SA, while the Central and Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges can now access full support,' said Mr Pederick.

'This is the mark of a government in tune with its community and a government that recognises the integral part rural Australia plays in the country's current survival and future prosperity.

'I urge the State Government to accelerate its own endeavours to ease the plight of SA's rural sector, not just by coat-tailing the Federal Government's initiatives, but by taking immediate and positive action such as easing the imposts of their own fees and charges and showing true leadership in this time of crisis.'

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921