

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Labor cuts funding to key Agriculture advisory body**

The state government's decision to cease funding a key agriculture advisory body is further evidence of agriculture's downgrading at the hands of a city-centric government.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said funding cuts to the Advisory Board of Agriculture (ABA) confirmed in the budget was another slap in the face for the state's primary producers.

Mr Pederick said the ABA is an important link between the minister and his department and the farming community, providing advice and feedback on a wide range of agricultural matters.

'The ABA is the governing body of the Agricultural Bureau, a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation linking science with the man on the land through 100 branches across the state.' Mr Pederick said.

'The Board and the Bureau serve vital roles in the community at very little cost to the public purse.

'For the Rann government to pull that modest support to save what in budget terms is a pittance is mean and short-sighted.

'Time and again this government has demonstrated it only thinks ahead as far as the next election.

'I call on them to publicly acknowledge the value of the ABA and the Bureau and provide some tangible assistance to their endeavours, which benefit the entire state.

'It's looking very much like a rerun of the Premier's Food Council farce – dissolving a key industry advisory group that faltered for lack of government commitment, and offering a vague promise to establish a new body, which as yet remains nameless and frameless.'