

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Shadow Minister for**

**The River Murray - Forests**

**Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

Wednesday December 2, 2009

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### **Government playing games with public safety**

The government is playing games with public safety by avoiding serious questions about riverbank slumping and its potential effect on major infrastructure.

Shadow River Murray spokesman Adrian Pederick asked the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Patrick Conlon about possible damage to bridges below Lock 1 from serious slumping caused by falling river levels in the region.

Mr Pederick said the slumping that was occurring could potentially cause serious damage to bridge structures.

'I asked the minister in Parliament about the possibility of damage to any of the three bridges and what action was planned to manage the risk.

'It was blatantly clear that the minister either did not have the answer or was not prepared to be open with the public about the risks.

'He then flippantly changed the subject, making it even more evident that he could not or would not answer.

'I believe the South Australian motoring public as well as local residents are entitled to know what the risks are and how the government proposes to deal with those risks. That is what they elect a government to do.

'I am not into scaremongering but with matters affecting public safety such as these, there is no room for secrecy – let alone clever tricks in Parliament.'