



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Sustainability and Climate Change

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries - Forests

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Government shoots itself in the foot on communication debate

The timing of the state government's announcement of its decision to defer the expansion of Mobilong prison was truly ironic says local MP Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, whose electorate of Hammond covers the city of Murray Bridge and the current Mobilong facility had earlier moved a motion condemning the government on its lack of appropriate communication with the local council.

In his speech, Mr Pederick pointed out that the original announcement was made through the media on the morning of September 21st, 2006 – Budget Day.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge mayor Allan Arbon and councillor Barry Laubsch were present in the House to hear the debate on Mr Pederick's motion.

Soon after, in a Ministerial Statement to the House, the treasurer Kevin Foley announced that in lieu of the current global financial situation, the prisons expansion project would be deferred.

'The irony of the treasurer's announcement was glaring,' Mr Pederick said.

'The news of the project's deferral came as a surprise to all present – none more so than Mayor Arbon, who happened to be present.

'Given the substance of my earlier motion and the assurances from government members that they had consulted thoroughly, it was reasonable to think the government would have had the courtesy to call Mayor Arbon sometime in the last few days to advise him of their decision and imminent announcement.

'In terms of my argument condemning the government's lack of reasonable and courteous communication, I thank the government for providing such incontrovertible evidence in support and I rest my case.'

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