

Thursday December 15, 2011

Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Shadow Minister for Forests

Grains discord costs industry

The dispute over representation of the state's grain industry has forced government intervention resulting in a less desirable outcome for the industry.

Opposition Agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick said Agriculture Minister Gago's Primary Industry Funding Scheme (PIFS) for grains is his least preferred option.

'Of the three options open to fund a grains industry body, the PIFS is my least preferred option,' Mr Pederick said.

"While I can understand the Minister's need to resolve this impasse promptly, I am disappointed it has come to this.

'I am particularly disappointed that, given the statement of principles agreed between the two groups — the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) and the fledgling Grain Producers SA (GPSA) on October 14, 2011, SAFF have chosen to break the good faith of that agreement in an apparent effort to hang onto the funds themselves.

'After that, it was always going to be difficult for SAFF and GPSA to agree on anything once the bond of trust was broken by SAFF's dismissing the agreement as non-binding.

'Industry representative bodies work best when they have autonomy from government. This option diminishes the lobbying power and influence of the industry on its own needs and affairs.

'Nobody's interests are best served by this action, especially SAFF, but the industry has to accept this and move on.'

Contact: Adrian Pederick - 0429 692 921

Visit Adrian's website www.adrianpederick.com.