

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
Opposition Whip
Shadow Minister for
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Monday April 4, 2011

Parliament's Grain Handling committee begins consultations

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Grain Handling has begun its consultation program with a series of site visits and meetings on the West Coast and Yorke Peninsula.

Local MP Adrian Pederick, whose motion to establish the committee received unanimous support, said the committee visited Ceduna, Thevenard, Cowell, Port Lincoln and Minlaton.

Mr Pederick, who is Shadow Minister for Agriculture, said the committee, consisting of Chairman Geoff Brock (Member for Frome), Tim Whetstone (Chaffey), Leon Bignell (Mawson) and Tony Piccolo (Light) and himself, met with industry representatives and held public meetings.

'SA's record harvest was welcome after so many difficult years and withstood many challenges including the worst locust plague in decades, a mouse plague and unseasonal rains at critical times,' Mr Pederick said.

'These problems, however, were overshadowed by the problems with grain handling, particularly classification.

'This committee is looking at all aspects of the grain handling industry, including the competitiveness of the marketplace for growers and the adequacy of transport infrastructure.'

While in Port Lincoln, the committee visited Viterra's grain handling facility to get a first hand view of systems, capacities and logistics.

The committee will visit the Mallee and Riverland in mid-April to consult with communities in the region.

Their itinerary includes public meetings on April 12 at Taillem Bend Football Club (9am-11am), Pinnaroo Football Club (7.30pm-9.30pm), and April 13 at Loxton Bowling Club (2.30pm-4.30pm).

Meetings are also planned for the mid-north; April 18 - Wallaroo Football Club (7pm-9pm), and April 19 - Crystal Brook Institute (9am -11am), Clare Country Club (2pm-4pm), Freeling Football Club (7pm-9pm).

Submissions may also be made in writing by April 29 to:- The Secretary - Select Committee on the Grain Handling Industry, Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000.