

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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State govt should invest in forests not liquidate them

The state government should support Forestry SA's proposal to increase the state's forest plantations says Shadow Forests spokesman Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick was responding to news that Forestry SA has called for a 30 per cent increase in plantation areas.

'This government has been insisting it will sell up to 111 years of forest growth, apparently to fund its ambitions for metropolitan Adelaide.

'That places at serious risk thousands of jobs and the economy of the entire South East region.

'Instead of liquidating our asset, the state government should be investing in the industry's future.

'The 2010-11 budget earmarked \$12 million *"to increase the government's current forest reserves to provide a secure additional resource to the timber industry."*

'I call on the state government to accept the wisdom of Forestry SA's proposal and abandon the short-sighted forward sale plan that jeopardises an entire region and compromises the state's future.'