

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
**Shadow Minister for
The River Murray - Forests
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**

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Labor can't be trusted with agriculture

The Labor government's commitment to country South Australia has been challenged by Opposition Agriculture, Food and Fisheries spokesman Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, a fifth generation farmer before entering parliament, said country South Australians could not take Agriculture Minister Paul Caica's statement of commitment to regional SA seriously.

'Minister Caica promises great things for the Loxton Research Centre, yet he oversaw the culling of scores of jobs from PIRSA, which, among other things, left the Loxton centre a virtual skeleton.

'And when I questioned him about the consequences and implications of 90 job cuts, he conceded that it was actually 106.

'Regional offices between Streaky Bay and Keith face either major staff cutbacks or complete extinction.

'And it's not just offices and jobs that are lost to regional SA. The services they provide are also at serious risk. The flow-on effect to communities is the deepest cut of all.

'And Mr Caica asks South Australians to believe the he and the Rann government are committed to agriculture and rural SA.

'The people out there in voter-land know who they can trust on agriculture.

'A Liberal government will include many personnel who have a farming background and understand what's involved in backing up such a commitment. The records show agriculture and regional SA are better off with a Liberal government.'