



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for
- The River Murray
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Friday July 27th, 2007

More 'good news – bad news' from the State government says Pederick

Local MP Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick has damned a government decision to source 29 fire appliances from an interstate manufacturer at the expense of a long established and well respected Murray Bridge company. The news emerged on the same day that Mental Health Minister Gail Gago announced that James Nash House would be relocated to Murray Bridge.

Mr Pederick said that news was tempered by the loss of the \$4m state government contract for the construction of 29 fire appliances, which has been awarded to an interstate company, in front of the Murray Bridge firm who has built more than 400 special units since 1976.

Mr Pederick has expressed his disappointment and concern at the decision. He said last December 10 similar units built by a Queensland company were delivered to the CFS with an average of 150 faults per vehicle. Three of the units had finally entered service only two weeks ago while the other seven remain unusable while awaiting rectification.

As a consequence of this decision, the Murray Bridge based manufacturer is faced with laying off 10 or more staff rather than employing and training an extra 10 and expanding their business.

Mr Pederick said other associated local suppliers will also have to revise their business plans – all to the detriment of the local and State economy.

'And this comes from a government whose Premier pontificates about supporting South Australian industries,' said Mr Pederick.

He said the terms of the CFS contract with the NSW manufacturer demand warranty work be completed within 50km radius of the unit's home station.

'If the experience with the previous interstate-sourced vehicles is anything to go by, it would seem inevitable that there will be ongoing problems and delays for volunteer crews around the state,' he said.

'This will only add to their disappointment and frustration at the government's lack of proper consultation about matters of concern to them as reported in the media this week.'

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921