

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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Marine Parks confusion continues

Commercial and recreational fishers remain in the dark, as the next step towards establishing the State Government's controversial Marine Parks network is announced.

Adjustments to outer boundaries, as well as a reduction in the total area, have not eliminated confusion and anger among the State's anxious fishing community.

Shadow Agriculture, Food & Fisheries Minister Adrian Pederick said the Government remained intent on alienating thousands of recreational fishers by imposing boundaries, and the reduction in the total area of the State's waters under restriction, from 46 to 44 per cent, was not enough.

"Both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors are already fully aware that they must take care of the marine environment, for the future of their livelihoods and the State's," Mr Pederick said.

"So to impose such wide ranging outer boundaries on an industry already among the best in the world regarding marine environment protection is ridiculous.

"People need to know what they are up against, and what they will and won't be able to do under the proposed system. The latest announcement hasn't provided much valuable information regarding future access to commercial and recreational fishers."

The Liberal Party is well aware of the need to protect fishing stocks and the marine environment, including sanctuary zones, but believes commercial fisheries have been operating sustainably under the current Fisheries Act.

The Opposition believes the Act already gives the Government significant powers to protect the marine environment.