

MEDIA RELEASE

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Member for Hammond

**Shadow Minister for
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Forests**

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Minister's fisheries gaffe

Labor has again been embarrassed by Agriculture Food & Fisheries Minister O'Brien – this time over abalone fisheries.

Shadow Minister Adrian Pederick said Minister O'Brien's recent remark suggesting wild-catch abalone divers were harming the marine environment showed his ignorance.

In a recent statement following an incident with an abalone farm on the West Coast, Minister O'Brien made reference to divers 'scouring' the sea bed, suggesting their activities were harmful and unsustainable.

Mr Pederick said the remark showed again that the minister was way out of touch with the realities of his portfolios.

'A few weeks ago this same minister made a similarly ill-informed remark about the locust threat in the Mallee.

'Minister O'Brien needs to get educated about how fisheries work. With quota restrictions in place and marine parks looming, professional fishermen are keenly aware of their need to work with the marine environment – not against it.

'SA fisheries are world-renowned for their management and sustainability. It's about time this government acknowledged this and gave our fishermen due credit for their care and diligence with this important state resource.

'These loose, uninformed remarks from Labor government ministers typify this government's lack of understanding of small business and country SA.

'It is small wonder fishermen are sceptical about this government's ability to make sensible, rational decisions about the future of their industry.'