

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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

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Liberals to reassert priority for agriculture

A Liberal government will reassert the vital role agriculture and primary production plays in underpinning South Australia's economy.

The statement came at the launch of the state Liberal party's Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Forests policies by leader Isobel Redmond in the Riverland.

Ms Redmond was flanked at the launch by Shadow Minister Adrian Pederick and the Liberal candidate for Chaffey Tim Whetstone.

Speaking at the launch Mr Pederick said country communities had suffered most of the economic and social pain brought about by recent events and Labor government policies.

'Water shortages coupled with the global financial problems, exchange rates and state taxation policies have impacted heavily on rural businesses and communities.

'Adding to the pain are Labor government policies to scale back rural facilities and staffing with shared services forcing even more people to relocate to the city or risk unemployment.'

Mr Pederick said a Liberal government would work more closely with all primary production stakeholders through more thorough and responsive consultation with rural industries and communities.

'We place a very high value on SA's reputation as efficient producers of quality goods including food, seafood, wine and dairy products. For this to remain, we must support and invest in research and development to keep abreast of changing environments and markets.

'Growth can only be sustained through efficiency and competitive exports. And we cannot achieve that without viable and vibrant rural industries.'