



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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

Friday June 13th, 2008

Public transport petition to demand action

News of plans to scrap public transport services in the Coorong, Karoonda and Southern Mallee was another blow to residents of the region, according to the local member of state parliament.

'As if drought, low water levels and allocations, reduced special education services, ominous signs in country health, relocation of public service jobs to the city and soaring fuel prices weren't enough – now this,' said Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

'The way things are going, you won't need buses anyway – there'll be nobody left out here.

'Everyone I speak to around the electorate is sick of hearing about big new hospitals, new tramlines, new trains, re-sleepered rail-lines, new buses, sports stadiums and all sorts of other luxuries being lavished on South Australians who happen to live between the Mt Lofty Ranges and the suburban beaches.

'Factory workers in the city get retrenchment payouts, retraining and relocation packages and all manner of support and assistance when anything goes wrong.

'Country South Australians are experiencing some of the toughest conditions in living memory and the government leaves them to wilt on the vine. Worse still, they are kicking them when they're down. It's one thing to get no support when it's sorely needed, but it's quite another thing to have some of the existing limited services taken away as well.

'They're even backing away from their earlier promise of improved public transport needs to serve the Mobilong prison extension at Murray Bridge.

'The Treasurer Kevin Foley made much in the recent budget of \$29.4 million for shoulder sealing country roads, but that's over four years. That's only \$7.3 million a year, and all that will do is patch up some of the worst roads.

Mr Pederick said a petition was circulating to demand the government rethink its approach to public transport needs in the region. He urged all constituents to put their support behind this action to show the government that they have had enough of being treated like second class South Australians.

'It's all too obvious that these decisions are made by little people in big offices who really don't understand the effects of their actions. Their sole task seems to be to save this government money so it can impress metropolitan voters,' said Mr Pederick.

Anyone wishing to sign or assist in circulating the petition can contact Mr Pederick's office at 20 Mannum Rd. Murray Bridge; phone 8531.1676; email hammond@parliament.sa.gov.au .

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921