

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

Thursday October 28, 2010

Important agriculture and river questions await answers

Three questions asked in state parliament by Opposition MP Adrian Pederick went unanswered as ministers admitted they were unfamiliar with the issues raised.

Mr Pederick, local MP for the bottom end of the river and Shadow Minister for Agriculture Food and Fisheries, said Ministers O'Brien and Caica were caught flat-footed on his questions.

'The matters I was raising are of great importance to South Australians,' Mr Pederick said.

'First I asked the Minister for Agriculture about additional restrictions on agricultural spraying practices. SA scientists have expressed concern that the federal restrictions are unnecessary and will severely affect the efficiency and productivity of SA agriculture.

'Answer – 'I'll get back to you'.

'Then I asked the minister about the Primary Industries department's belated promise to consult industries and community groups affected by the budget announcement of new charges for the Property Identification Code and Biosecurity Fees.

'Answer – 'I'll get back to you'.

'My third question was to the Minister for the River Murray and the Environment, Paul Caica, about maintaining effective monitoring of the river corridor in the wake of the disbanding of the 11 member Drought Compliance Team on September 24.

'Without that team, which monitored all manner of important matters along the river, who knows what liberties will go unnoticed and uncontrolled?

'Answer – 'I'll get back to you'.

'I look forward to their promised replies and trust they are prompt and informative.

'One can only hope that these matters will in future receive greater attention in the eyes of the responsible ministers.'