

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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R&D funds sorely missed

If the State's Agriculture Minister is serious about agriculture, why is he cutting more than \$1.7 million in research and development per year over the next four years?

Shadow Minister for Agriculture Adrian Pederick has voiced his support for Ian Turner's comments in last week's *Stock Journal*, regarding cuts to research and development funding in South Australia.

"Where is the priority of this Government? Certainly not for the regions of of South Australia," Mr Pederick said.

"There are qualified, experienced people out there who no longer have the opportunity or platform to help our industry move forward. They are sitting on their hands with no available funds to help them.

"It is vital that the State's agriculture industry continues to develop, grow and remains among the nation's market leaders. Research and development funding is crucial to this."

A \$1.7 million reduction in R&D funds, plus an additional \$450,000 in administrative and operational efficiencies per annum over four years, was announced by the State Government in the 2009-2010 Budget.