

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Rann must be accountable to Riverland

The Rann Government must be held accountable for the uncompetitive business environment that has developed in South Australia forcing regional businesses to operate interstate.

High taxes, inadequate and unfair water allocations to Riverland irrigators have been instrumental in propelling National Foods (Berri Juices) in Berri to announce its closure in June 2010.

Adrian Pederick, Shadow Agriculture Minister said that Premier Mike Rann and Treasurer Kevin Foley have been instrumental in turning SA into the highest taxed state in the nation.

“The combination of the heavy tax burden in SA with the ineffectiveness of Mike Rann and Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald to secure adequate water for Riverland irrigators to grow fruit has produced an uncompetitive environment for National Foods to continue operating,” Mr Pederick said.

“National Foods have found a more competitive state taxation environment, more water and more fruit interstate.

“The loss of 64 Riverland jobs is symptomatic of the Rann Government’s lack of understanding of the needs of regional businesses and food producers.

“Fruit produces just a few kilometres across the state border are able to use 80 to 100 per cent of their water allocations producing plenty of affordable fruit to supply National Foods.

“High payroll taxes, land taxes and WorkCover levies mean doing business in SA is more expensive than any other state - up to 50% more expensive than Queensland, the cheapest State.

“Mike Rann, Kevin Foley and Karlene Maywald have abandoned the food producing communities of the Riverland”.