

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond  
**Opposition Whip**  
**Shadow Minister for**  
**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Government must revitalise the Lower Murray**

The revitalisation of the farming industries along the River Murray below Mannum should be a government priority says local MP Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, who is also Shadow Minister for Agriculture, said the region's once bustling dairy industry had been decimated leaving many properties unused and derelict.

'In the last ten years, 100 or so dairies have closed down between Mannum and Wellington. That's a massive 80% drop.

'Many of those properties have virtually been abandoned leaving derelict buildings and overgrown pasture rife with weeds and vermin.

'There have been many reasons for this including drought, market pressures, water quality and general financial crises.

'Apart from the loss of production and degradation of valuable farming land, we have also lost many families who moved in pursuit of greener pastures.

'This is having a profound effect on individual communities and the regional economy in general and ultimately affects us all in some way.

'Just as the government pours money into assisting people affected by major manufacturing closures such as Mitsubishi, so should they invest in revitalising the Lower Murray.

'The same must be said for the Lower Lakes, particularly around Lake Albert - another area where farming was battered almost to death by the vagaries of the last decade.

'The water situation has improved and the demand for food production is ever increasing, now more than ever with the disasters in Queensland.

'This is still some of the best farming country in SA but help is needed to re-establish it for the future.

'I trust the government will look favourably on any propositions or projects presented that work towards that goal.'