



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

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

Monday October 15th, 2007

---

### **SA Liberals propose rescue plan for Riverland**

A 10 point rescue plan was announced to Riverland irrigators during a visit to Renmark by State Opposition leader Martin Hamilton-Smith last Friday.

Accompanied by the Parliamentary Secretary for the River Murray, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, Mr Hamilton-Smith released details of the plan to a gathering of local stakeholders, which included citrus, wine-grape and almond growers and other food producers and irrigators.

Mr Hamilton-Smith said the loss of permanent plantings would be disastrous for the South Australian economy, adding that the Rann Government had neglected Riverland producers and their families who need immediate assistance.

Among measures included in the package are short to medium term leases for water for permanent croppers from annual croppers and dairy farmers, 22 gigalitres directed to the Riverland under the Living Murray Program and low-cost loans for purchasers of water licences.

Mr Pederick said he and Mr Hamilton-Smith visited a property that employs up to 1,000 people at peak times. He said should such a company fail the flow-on effect to the regional economy would be catastrophic, with a subsequent effect on the whole state.

He said most farmers and managers are closely monitoring their situations and making difficult decisions daily such as what to keep and what to let die.

'I am pleased to see good cross-industry support with dairy farmers who have quit their herds giving permanent croppers priority to their water entitlements. Any irrigator planning to sell water entitlement can ask their broker to direct it to permanent croppers,' Mr Pederick said.

'However, as the river and lake levels drop and salinity increases, I am concerned that the little water remaining will become unusable for anything at any price.'

Mr Pederick said the plan complements the 19 point Waterproofing South Australia plan announced by Mr Hamilton-Smith last August, which seeks to take pressure of the River Murray.

**Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921**