

Tuesday December 6, 2011

## **Adrian Pederick MP**

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Shadow Minister for Forests

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### **SAFF about-face stalls grain body**

The decision by the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) to back away from an agreement to support the establishment of a separate grain growers' body has cast a shadow over the state's grain industry.

Opposition spokesman on agriculture Adrian Pederick said he was bewildered by the action of SAFF president Peter White that has left the whole process in confusion.

Mr Pederick said after many weeks of discussion and meetings, a principles agreement was reached on October 14, 2011, that clearly stated how the change would progress.

"That agreement was signed by three serving SAFF office-bearers and the chairperson of the fledgling Grain Producers SA (GPSA). That was subsequently approved by the minister," Mr Pederick said.

"The first two principles are that GPSA represent all grain growers in SA on all grain issues and that GPSA will collect and manage grain levy funds.

"For SAFF president Peter White – a signatory to the October 14 Principles agreement – to suddenly decide SAFF would continue to represent SA grain growers defies belief.

"Given events since then, it is also apparent that he has done so without the full support of his own board.

"The subject of providing levy-paying SA grain growers full and effective representation by a single body has been a long-standing issue.

"This agreement ended that saga and gave growers a genuine voice into the management of their own industry and control of their funds.

"Mr White had ample opportunity to offer acceptable alternatives or to object to the terms of the agreement before he signed it.

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Visit Adrian's website [www.adrianpederick.com](http://www.adrianpederick.com).

“Stepping back from the spirit of that agreement now does no-one any good; least of all grain growers. SAFF’s own credibility has been trampled by this action.

“This needs to be resolved quickly. I am happy to work in a bi-partisan way to serve the best interests of growers so they have appropriate representation and a credible lobbying voice.”

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