

Monday November 21, 2011

Adrian Pederick MP

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

Pederick calls for govt to maintain appropriate funding to schools

The fight to save local schools and preserve their funding levels has heated up with the involvement of local MP Adrian Pederick.

In response to representations made to him by a delegation of school parents, Mr Pederick presented a petition to the House of Assembly on October 18, calling on the government to not proceed with the amalgamation.

'The petition was signed by 723 parents – a significant proportion of the entire parent body.

'As the petitioners point out, this change can only damage educational outcomes for our children.

'The forced amalgamation of Murray Bridge North Primary and Junior Primary Schools will reduce funding support across the two campuses. This will inevitably result in reductions to teaching staff, support officers and programs.

'Premier and former Education Minister Jay Weatherill has not demonstrated any educational benefits from this change. It is purely a money-saving exercise at the expense of our children's education.

On top of that it ignores the needs of the entire community that are affected by the depth and quality of education offered in the district.

'I was able to get an extension of time for submissions on the matter. Now I am asking for a guarantee of educational outcomes.

'I challenge the premier and his new Education Minister Grace Portolesi to promise that neither students nor their families will lose out as a result of this regressive budget cut.

'I call on the Labor government to accept their responsibilities for children's education, and allocate appropriate and ongoing funding to ensure that obligation is met.'

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Visit Adrian's website www.adrianpederick.com.