

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Shadow Minister for

River Murray – Sustainability and Climate Change

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Forests

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Shadow minister visits West Coast and Eyre Peninsula

Shadow Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Adrian Pederick and Liberal candidate for Flinders Peter Treloar made a four day tour of Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast last week.

Mr Pederick and Mr Treloar visited many centres along the coast from Arno Bay and Cowell through Pt Lincoln to Ceduna as well as travelling inland to farming communities. They met with industry and community leaders to discuss many issues and were joined for part of the tour by sitting member for Flinders, Ms Liz Penfold.

Mr Pederick said South Australia's multi-million fishing and aquaculture industries were dealing with many difficult challenges at the moment, some home-grown like the Marine Parks fiasco and others more international such as the global financial crisis.

He said Marine Parks had become a hot topic around SA with the government's proposal to declare almost half of the state's entire coastline a marine park.

'Here's an example of poor science and poor consultation by a poor government. This is supposed to be about protecting SA's marine environment and fish species. Yet the approach is to simply broad-brush everything in sight while admitting there are no fish species currently under threat.

'The commercial fishing sector knows it must take care of the marine environment, not just for their future but for the future of the state.

'SA's self-managed fisheries are among the best in the world but the government thinks it can do better. How? By asking the same commercial and recreational fishing industry it's just insulted where and what to protect. Those industry people should be compensated for their time and knowledge.'

At Minnipa the party visited the Research Centre to look at their programs for farming systems in low rainfall. Mr Pederick said it was a great opportunity to meet the dedicated staff working at the cutting edge of the agricultural technology that will carry Australia forward in the face of climate variability.

Another highlight of the tour was the launch of the 'Australian Farmer' at Wudinna. Mr Pederick said the enormous granite monument reflected the true spirit of Australian farming, being carved and erected by a community under pressure in difficult times.

In Pt Lincoln, Mr Pederick and Mr Treloar met fishing industry representatives to hear, among other things, their side of the current debate over iron ore exports from Pt Lincoln.

Mr Pederick said the matter was causing much concern in the fishing and tourism industries who fear potential air and water pollution might affect them.

'If the science showing low or no risk ore handling is compelling, it should be properly presented. If not, the matter should be re-examined so everyone involved can make well-informed decisions about it.

'All industries are vital. All earn valuable export dollars. But we can't have one at the expense of others. They must be able to co-exist,' Mr Pederick said.