



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Adrian Pederick MP**

Member for Hammond

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### **Pederick says pressure on govt resulted in about-turn on waterfront land**

An about-turn by the Rann Government on conditions for freeholding perpetual lease rural land has been welcomed by local MP Adrian Pederick, Member for Hammond.

Mr Pederick said the change-of-mind by Environment and Conservation Minister, Gail Gago followed strong representations from affected landholders and local MPs including himself.

"Under the government's initial proposal there was no guarantee that waterfront corridors retained by the government as leasehold property would be transferred to the new owners of adjoining freehold land," Mr Pederick said.

"It meant that a farm or landholding in the same family for generations might end up being broken apart at the time of sale because the government decided it wouldn't transfer the waterfront leasehold property to the new freehold owner.

"This was a major threat to the value and integrity of hundreds of family farms along the River Murray, the Lower Murray Lakes and stretching along the entire SA coastline.

"Most landholders were very happy with the proposal to freehold land they had been farming – in some cases – for generations.

"However, their joy quickly turned to despair when it became clear that as part of the deal the government wanted total control over any riverbank or shoreline property.

"I am glad to say that Minister Gago has seen common sense and agreed to the transfer of government-controlled waterfront leasehold land at time of sale to the new owners of adjoining freehold property.

"Landholders need the certainty that when they sell their freehold property, the leasehold waterfront land that is an integral part of their holding also transfers to the new owner without fuss."

While a major stumbling block has been overcome with the new transfer arrangements, Mr Pederick said he would like to see the government also agree to some relief for landowners on the cost of surveys.

"All of the property being retained as waterfront leasehold has to be surveyed to establish proper boundaries," he said. "The remaining problem is that the government wants property owners to foot the bill. And in some cases this runs over \$10,000!

"I think it would be appropriate for the government to share the burden rather than shove it onto individual property owners."

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