

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

Monday December 6, 2010

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### **Adrian's Christmas message**

Suddenly it's December again and thoughts turn to spending time with family and friends.

I am delighted to at last be able to say there is water in our precious River Murray and Lower Lakes, and the spectre of a weir has been lifted.

Excellent rainfalls through the Murray Darling catchment have given us a reprieve but the problem of securing the river system's long-term sustainability remains.

SA's efficiency with water for over 30 years must be taken into account in the Murray Darling Basin Authority's plan. We have not been given due credit to date and are being asked to contribute a greater proportional share than eastern states.

2010 was a year of elections. In the SA state election in March I was humbled by your support and will repay that faith by continuing to work hard for the people of Hammond.

The closeness of the federal election and the change of government in Victoria have highlighted Australians' mood for change.

Issues I have worked on this year include pushing for retention of rural services and trying to stem the flow of rural assets and professional skills to the city.

As the drought eases its grip on country SA, farmers still face extreme challenges – locust and mouse plagues and, of all things, rain on ripening crops.

Nevertheless, our growers continue to present us with quality produce, providing regional communities with employment and cash-flow, despite increasing pressure from often inferior imports.

I urge all South Australians to note which foods are locally produced and support the growers that support our rural communities and lifestyles.

On behalf of my wife Sally, sons Mack and Angus and myself, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and express my confidence that 2011 will be a great year for all.