

Thursday December 15, 2011

Adrian Pederick MP

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

Adrian's Christmas message Dec 2011

The most heartening thing about 2011 was the return of good flows to the River Murray. That's not to say the problems of low flows and over-allocation are fixed, far from it. Much more water will need to flow under the bridge before we can rest easy. The hardest task is to convince our upstream neighbours that the health of the lower river and lakes is as important to them as it is to us.

The removal of bunds at Narrung and Clayton has gone some way to restoring the natural character of the river and lakes but there is more work to do to complete their removal and return the system to full function, not least of which is to remove the last remaining bund at Currency Creek.

I was pleased to play a key role in establishing a Parliamentary Select Committee to look into grain handling practices in SA. Our recommendations will be aimed at improving processes, raising competition and lowering costs to get a better deal for growers.

The Murray Bridge racecourse development demonstrates the confidence others have for our community. Many social and economic benefits will flow from this project.

A new shopping precinct in Murray Bridge has lifted the bar in terms of choice of shops, range and quality of goods on offer, eating options etc. They all add to the shopping experience and promote social interaction and raise the profile of the whole region.

The growth of local industries and the welcome sale of two local dairy processing plants have given many people reassurance about their futures in the district, enabling them to make decisions about house purchases, employment, education and social activities.

I look forward to a busy and productive 2012.

With my wife Sally and sons Mack and Angus I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

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