

Adrian Pederick MP

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

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Regions miss out... again

L-plate Premier Weatherill has demonstrated he will not be making regional South Australia a priority, electing the fourth Labor agriculture minister since 2008.

Agriculture, food and fisheries contribute \$3.5 billion to the State each year.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said that Labor under L-plate Premier Weatherill would remain just as city-centric as before.

"Labor has a shocking record of abandoning South Australia's regional communities and Mr Weatherill has demonstrated things will be no different on his watch," Mr Pederick said.

"Agriculture, food and fisheries are substantial contributors to the state economy.

"The agriculture sector deserves stability, leadership and strong direction from government, but Labor has left the sector rudderless for nearly a decade."

Labor has devastated many of our regional communities with decisions including:

- Selling the forward rotations of the state's forests
- Slashing funding to regional community hospitals in Keith, Ardrossan and Moonta
- Awarding a substantial part of the lucrative regional school bus contract to an interstate company instead of staying with local providers
- Failing to adequately consult regional communities on marine parks
- Slashing \$80 million from PIRSA
- Allowing regional roads to deteriorate with a \$200 million backlog in road maintenance across the state
- Increasing fees and charges imposed on the fishing, wine, mining and farming sectors
- Federal cuts to branched broomrape funding

"No doubt new Premier Weatherill will try to distance himself from all these decisions but he sat in Cabinet for every Labor decision that has crushed regional communities and must now take responsibility for his Government's reckless, city-centric policies.

"Not once did he ever speak out against the decisions that have decimated our regional communities."

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921

www.adrianpederick.com