



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **Martin Hamilton-Smith MP**

Shadow Minister for Economic Development

Shadow Minister for Science & Information Economy

Shadow Minister for Small Business

Shadow Minister for the Arts

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

## **STATE GOVERNMENT MUST LEAD ON ASO FUNDING**

The State Liberal Opposition agrees completely with Federal Minister Alexander Downer that the present size and capacity of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) must be maintained.

However Shadow Arts Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said today the Rann Government must take the lead in arguing the ASO's case, keeping in mind that the ASO has always depended on Federal and State funding.

The James Strong review of the various State symphony orchestras shows that the ASO deficit of \$2.3m is the largest in the nation. It also shows the ASO received the least Federal funding of all the State orchestras and received less State Government funding than any other mainland orchestra.

"The Rann Government must pull its weight on ASO funding," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"Labor has allowed the ASO debt level to increase alarmingly in recent years and while the battle for its survival must be fought in Canberra, Mr Rann, as Arts Minister, must lead the way in terms of the forthcoming State Budget."

Mr Hamilton-Smith said he would be writing to and lobbying Federal Ministers and State Government to overcome the funding impasse.

A petition available through all Liberal MP's offices calling on the Federal and State Government to resolve the issues will be available for South Australians to sign.