

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

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No money for Mypo growers: Gago

The Mypolonga Horticulture industry will receive no funding from the Weatherill Labor Government in its fight against fruit fly, according to Hon Gail Gago, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

When questioned about the cessation of funding for the Mypolonga fruit fly trapping grid and if the Government would provide funding, Minister Gago recognised the implications growers would face but would not commit financial assistance:

“There is no provision in current budget for PIRSA to take on more responsibility for the Mypolonga fruit fly trapping grid.” (Hansard, 15.10.2013)

Liberal Member for Hammond, Adrian Pederick is disappointed in the lack of support offered by the Weatherill Labor Government.

“Mypolonga is geographically important to the Riverland horticulture industry, and metropolitan growers, yet the Minister continues to leave the local horticulture industry hanging,” said Mr Pederick.

“I acknowledge PIRSA’s in-kind support for technical advice and assistance, however this is pointless without providing funding to support the employment of a trapping grid inspector.”

More concerning is the recent detection of a male Queensland fruit fly in the Mypolonga area in July this year.

“The true value of having a fruit fly trapping grid in Mypolonga was fully realised in the recent detection of the male fruit fly,” Mr Pederick said.

“However, this Government decision will leave local growers susceptible to further fruit fly detections and a potential devastating outbreak.

“\$321.9 million of South Australia’s annual horticultural produce is vulnerable to fruit fly infestation.

“If an outbreak happens, the entire State’s Horticulture industry is at risk and the Government will have no one else to blame except themselves.”