



Fruit fly in, fruit fly out: Liberals concerned about exclusion zone

THE chances of including Mypolonga in South Australia's Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone remain quite slim, despite repetitive efforts from Liberal MPs.

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick introduced a motion to extend the zone to include Mypolonga in Parliament last week, but said the State Government had attempted to amend it to only recognise the importance of the town's fruit fly tracking grid.

"It is obvious that the Weatherill Labor government will not support the motion," he said.

"Mypolonga is currently only regarded as a Fruit Fly Free Area, unlike their neighbours in the Riverland who are in a Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone.

"This means that Mypolonga growers do not receive the same support; they also have

a higher risk of exposure and access to some markets may be limited."

Riverland visitors are currently restricted from bringing fresh fruit or fruiting vegeta-

bles into the zone without a receipt, with the zone extending as far south as Walker Flat and Purnong.

A Primary Industries and Regions SA spokesperson said the State Government was not in a position to add Mypolonga to the Riverland Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone.

"It is up to the Commonwealth to declare and manage new Pest Free Areas," the spokesperson said.

"This would require lengthy negotiations and significant resources, and there

would need to be separate negotiations for each individual market Mypolonga growers wished to target."

The spokesperson

said a Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone at Mypolonga would need

to be run independently.

"An independent Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone for Mypolonga would need to be managed under agreed national protocols, which are already applied in the Riverland

region," the spokesperson said.

"This would require infrastructure such as signage, region-specific road blocks, and a comprehensive community awareness campaign for a new Pest Free Area.

"South Australia's focus and resources will remain focused on keeping fruit fly out of the state, and the \$3 million Sterile Insect Technology facility being developed at Port Augusta."