



Mypolonga may join fruit fly exculsion zone

MYPOLONGA would be added to South Australia's fruit fly exclusion zone under a State Liberal government.

Liberal Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said the detection of a fruit fly among the region's orchards last year had spooked local producers, and that existing protective measures were inadequate.

Liberal primary industries spokesman David Ridgway said his party would spend an extra \$500,000 over four years breeding and releasing sterile male Queensland fruit flies and increasing staff levels on State borders to

protect fruit growers.

"Considering the value of our primary industries, we must be prudent in protecting them," he said.

The Liberals would also review South Australia's existing \$5 million fruit fly program and work more closely with primary producers to implement a national strategy.

But Agriculture Minister Gail Gago said the Liberals' promise to extend the zone would have a high cost and little practical benefit, as South Australia was already fruit fly-free.

"To extend the fruit fly exclusion zone to include Mypolonga would require significant and lengthy negotiation between the Commonwealth and industry," she said.

"To establish a new awareness campaign, signs and bins would require an outlay of around \$500,000; if a new, permanent road block was required it would cost \$2 million; and ongoing work like servicing bins, running random road blocks and managing a new area would require around

\$200,000 a year.

"The Liberals don't pledge to fund the addition of Mypolonga, so how are they going to pay - will they force the cost on to industry?"

She said the Labor government had funded a fruit fly-trapping network at Mypolonga, lob-

bied Horticulture Australia to do the same, and had already invested \$3 million in sterile insect technology as well as strengthening other anti-fruit fly measures.

"The Liberals have done nothing but criticise our fruit fly efforts," she said.

Visitors to the Riverland, South Australia's only existing fruit fly exclusion zone, may not bring in fresh fruit or fruiting vegetables without a receipt, nor home-grown fruit of any kind.

Roadside bins are erected on major routes into the zone, and quarantine officers have the power to stop and search vehicles at random.

The zone extends as far south as Walker Flat and Purnong, but does not include Mypolonga.