

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Pederick questions minister's fruit fly commitment**

State Agriculture Minister Michael O'Brien must clarify exactly where he stands on the matter of fruit fly protection says Opposition spokesman Adrian Pederick.

'The call for increased vigilance to keep fruit fly out of South Australia will leave the state's fruit and vegetable growers confused and angry,' said Mr Pederick.

Mr Pederick said a statement from the Minister's department calling for increased vigilance is at odds with the Labor government's decision to reduce funding to the roadside inspection stations.

'In the 2010-11 budget, funding to Yamba and Ceduna roadblocks was reduced, leaving both stations without 24 hour cover as from October 2010. Industry outcry resulted in Labor extending the nightshift temporarily, leaving the industry to ponder how it might fund them permanently.

'During Estimates committee, when the State Liberals questioned Minister O'Brien about the need for the Government to maintain full inspection service levels permanently, the answer was there was little need for 24 hour cover.

'Now, a few months later, we have a call for increased vigilance in the face of an identified threat of Queensland fruit fly via Victoria and New South Wales.

'Minister O'Brien must clarify exactly where he stands on this vitally important matter. Do we need increased vigilance or is there little need for 24 hour cover at inspection stations?'

'Failing to keep fruit fly out of SA will cost all South Australians – country and city,' Mr Pederick said.