

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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Labor duds local growers

Negative media exposure has forced the Rann Labor Government to back flip after they snubbed local growers by using imported Chinese apples in our public hospitals instead of locally grown produce.

The Health Department was forced to announce the Chinese apples available in our hospitals would be replaced by locally grown apples following pressure from the media and the Opposition this morning.

“Labor has abandoned South Australian producers,” Shadow Food Minister Adrian Pederick said.

“This issue has revealed the Premier’s new portfolio – Food Marketing – to be a sham. It’s designed to protect and promote our local produce but meanwhile the Government has been using imported apples.

“Labor is making much fanfare about a new Ministry while at the same time completely abandoning local growers.

“They ripped millions of dollars and 180 jobs out of the agriculture side of Primary Industries and now we have seen apples from overseas in our hospitals.

“Again all we are seeing from Labor is spin.

“Our local produce is some of the best around the world. Our growing practices are second to none and the industry provides valuable employment for regional South Australia.

“Labor has shown it is more interested in a positive media story about a new portfolio than actually supporting our local growers.”