

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Labor must continue the fight for broomrape eradication**

Labor must not lose its resolve on the eradication of branched broomrape in the Murray Mallee following the release of an independent review into the program, says Opposition Agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick.

The review into the Branched Broomrape eradication program advised that complete eradication would be difficult and recommends a shift to containment.

Mr Pederick says giving up on the invasive weed now would spell disaster for local landholders and threaten Australian farm export markets, putting millions of dollars of exports at risk.

‘International buyers will shy away from products from a region affected by broomrape.

‘The effect on farmers in the region would be devastating. A drop in produce prices would be serious enough but its effect on land values could be terminal for many.

‘Some \$45 million has been spent on the program so far. This will all go to waste if the eradication program is scaled back and broomrape breaks out of the area.

‘I understand it’s currently confined to a small area of about 70 kms by 70 kms. If Salvation Jane or cane toads were confined to such a tiny area, we’d thank our lucky stars and get on with the job of wiping them out.

‘South Australia – indeed Australia – cannot afford to let this program fade away.

‘I urge Minister O’Brien to not give in on this. He must do everything possible to ensure the eradication program continues with full national support.’