

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

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Pederick calls for locust rebate extension

The state opposition has called on the government to reopen the locust spray rebate program for farmers battling a second generation of locust hatchings.

Reports of a second wave of hatchings are coming in from around the state, notably the Riverland, Mallee, Barossa Valley and Mid-north.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said farmers finding new hatchings are obliged to spray them but have discovered they can no longer get state government assistance with the cost of chemicals.

'The second generation presents a significant risk to many growers and communities and if unmanaged could lead to a third generation, which will threaten autumn sowing.

'Growers who were not able to spray affected areas during the first bandings before Christmas are understandably angry that government support is no longer available.

'In his statement last week, Agriculture Minister O'Brien stressed the importance of getting on top of the second generation now to avert "far greater problems in autumn".

'There is an opportunity here to get in front of that problem,' Mr Pederick said, 'but farmers need some support, the same as their neighbours and councils got before Christmas.

'The government cannot reasonably expect farmers now to battle at their own expense for the greater good of SA agriculture.

'I call on the government to immediately reintroduce the rebate for farmers who are legally obliged to take action in the interests of the whole state.