

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Cheaper mouse bait imminent**

Mouse bait regional mixing stations that will save farmers tens of thousands of dollars have finally been approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

SA Agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick said the APVMA has just approved an application by a West Australian farm chemical supply company to establish the mixing stations.

Mr Pederick said he understood the first station should be up and running within a week giving hope to farmers battling what is now being described by some as the worst mouse plague in memory.

'While this is excellent news for farmers generally, we have yet to hear from the SA government as to whether the mixing stations can be established here.

'Stations will have to meet certain occupation, health and safety standards, be in suitable facilities and be manned by appropriately trained and qualified staff so there's still some work to be done.

'It will require some assistance from state government to fast-track local approvals and compliances to make this happen quickly.

'The system will involve farmers presenting their own grain for treatment with zinc phosphide for a net cost of about one quarter the current cost of the only commercial bait on the market, which is currently out of stock anyway.' Mr Pederick said.

'Exactly when and where in SA these mixing stations can be placed will depend on the will and responsiveness of the SA government.

'With winter sowing well underway, it is imperative that this happens immediately.'