

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Labor govt must do more to fight mouse plague**

The state Labor government should be vigorously pursuing options to reduce mouse bait costs that threaten to rob SA farmers recovering from years of drought.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said farmers from around the state are reeling from huge cost of bait needed to control a massive mouse plague.

'At \$10 per hectare, a 1000 hectare property costs \$10,000 to treat. Worse still, baiting often has to be repeated during the season,' Mr Pederick said.

'One farmer has reported to me he is paying \$1000 per week to control the pest on his chicken broiler farm.

'The government should be lobbying the Agricultural Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for emergency approval to establish regional centres through the state's NRM network to mix zinc phosphide and grain to provide a rapid and inexpensive supply of bait to farmers.

'A similar program established in 1993 proved effective and successful. The recent locust treatment program was regionally based and utilised existing expertise in partnership with local councils and contractors.

'I can see no reason why something similar can't be facilitated for mice. It need not be expensive and the benefit to the state economy is obvious.

'But it needs to happen now.'