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Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Shadow Minister for Forests

Pederick demands government commit to broomrape battle

In the face of a recent decision by the federal government to review the branched broomrape eradication program, thereby placing future funding in doubt, local MP Adrian Pederick has demanded a long-term commitment to the program from the state government.

Mr Pederick, who is also state Shadow Minister for Agriculture, said in parliament that in the wake of the federal government's announcement, other states are already considering embargos on SA farm produce from the affected area.

'Queensland has already banned produce from an area of some thousands of square kilometres and AQIS will not sign off on grain from the area unless the source property has been certified clear of broomrape,' Mr Pederick said.

'Failure to contain and ultimately eradicate broomrape could devastate SA's agriculture economy and leave farmers destitute – their land valueless.

'I understand Minister O'Brien is talking to producers in the next few weeks and that is encouraging.

'But words must be backed up with action and action must be backed up with funding commitments so farmers know where they're going and can make critical decisions.

'I remind Minister O'Brien that his government came to power in '02 on the back of that same commitment, and only last October he was trumpeting the program's target of 'eliminating one of the world's worst weeds by 2025'.

'The Labor government must make this commitment now and continue to press the federal government for support into the future.'

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