



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

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Grape growers deserve answers on phylloxera scare

Langhorne Creek grape growers were entitled to ask how an event such as the recent Phylloxera scare could occur and what has been done to guarantee it does not happen again says local MP, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

‘We were lucky this time but it was just good luck not good management. It makes you wonder how many times before this may have happened and so far gone unnoticed,’ said Mr Pederick.

‘Grape growers currently have to battle droughts, wine gluts, falling grape prices and the sales and marketing policies of multi-national brand owners.

‘These are things none of us can control but to have the whole of the state’s wine industry, with its huge international reputation for consistent high quality, thrown into doubt through such a simple act as a retail business bypassing quarantine protocols is insult on top of injury.

‘Wherever Phylloxera has struck around the world its effect has been devastating, leaving many growers ruined and local economies shattered.

‘The consequences of infestation are not apparent until several years after the cause so it would be impossible to find the culprit or identify the weakness in the system that allowed it to happen before the damage to South Australia’s \$2.2million wine industry has been well and truly done.’

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921