



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

April 30, 2007

‘Broomrape shortcuts not on’ says Pederick

During Question Time in State Parliament last week Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick raised questions about the process of the government’s Branched Broomrape Eradication Program. Mr Pederick said his questions were prompted by concerns raised by constituents who feel indemnity clauses in the contract are too broad, leaving farmers exposed to unreasonable legal risks.

In questions to the Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, Mr Pederick asked why primary producers dealing with Branched Broomrape on their properties are being asked to sign a legal contract that has not been scrutinised by either the Branched Broomrape Community Focus Group or the Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Mr Pederick said the Minister for Environment and Conservation Gail Gago had advised Parliament in February 2007 that the Advisory Committee only meets when necessary and had not met in the past twelve months.

‘Given the contentious nature of these issues, I would have thought they warranted proper consultation with the Community Focus Group and the specific attention of the Ministerial Advisory Council.’

Mr Pederick said a second concern with the program was that farmers, many of whom would not receive grant assistance, were not required to keep a record of the types, volumes and timing of chemical spraying on their properties.

‘As some of chemicals are activated by rainfall, secondary treatments may be required and thorough records would ensure the

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program was effective and efficient and not pose any threat to neighbouring properties,' Mr Pederick said.

'In not following due process and skipping vital consultation and discussion, the government has jumped the gun and not honoured its own agreement to assist farmers in the thorough eradication of this pest.'