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Adrian Pederick MP

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

Mouse battle complicated by controversy

Controversy over the closure of mouse bait mixing stations is complicating our farmers' battle against the current major mouse plague says Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick.

Bait mixing stations were set up around South Australia to provide an immediate supply of bait to combat the plague.

Mr Pederick said seasonal conditions had brought on another wave of mice that threatened to decimate this season's potential bumper harvest.

'Crops are at a critical stage and if farmers can't bait exactly when they need to, the yield will be seriously depleted – to everyone's cost,' Mr Pederick said.

'With many farmers needing to make repeated bait applications in a season, it is essential that bait is affordable and available at the critical time.

'The usual mouse bait is too expensive for stockists and farmers to hold large quantities in case of plague - which can be very hard to predict, but when a plague does strike, the need is immediate.

'Until the authorities can authorise farmers to mix their own bait on-farm, bait mixing stations are the most efficient alternative.

'This is an emergency. The various players in the supply chain, suppliers, manufacturers, the APVMA, (Australian Plant and Veterinary Medicines Authority), and governments must focus on getting the job done quickly and work together for the good of all.'

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