

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

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### **Mouse plague from east to west**

As farmers, agribusinesses and governments anxiously gear up to fight a potentially record locust plague, news is coming in from around SA of a severe mouse plague.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said his office is receiving calls from the far West Coast, Yorke Peninsula and the Victorian border reporting severe infestation and damage from mice.

'Some areas are reporting it is the worst they've ever seen. One farmer has been told by a supplier that demand for the recommended treatment chemical is coming in from all three southern states and is the greatest he's experienced.

'We have already had farmers re-sowing crops—at considerable expense, while others are considering not planting at all this season.

'The preferred chemical is expensive, costing farmers around \$8-10/hectare.

'Some of the worst affected areas are still under EC support and even state Agriculture Minister O'Brien acknowledged recently that parts of Eyre Peninsula should be re-declared. Farmers' reserves are gone and the banks aren't lending them more.

'The state's farmers are under siege. They need some assistance to fight this extra threat and they need it now. It's help many farmers feel they've already paid for through their NRM levies.

'I call on Premier Rann -wherever he is - and Minister O'Brien to recognise the importance of supporting our rural producers and the urgent need to provide immediate support.'