

Tuesday November 22, 2011

## **Adrian Pederick MP**

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

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### **Pederick slams Labor on Broomrape funding**

The reduction of funding by both state and federal Labor governments for the treatment and eradication of the parasitic weed Branched Broomrape has drawn strong criticism from Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick, whose electorate covers the quarantined area, said Labor was walking away from its responsibilities to the SA farming community.

'Between farmers and the government, well over \$100 million has been spent in the past decade fighting the weed and confining it to a small area some 70 kms square,' he said.

'A reduction in funding is taking the eye off the ball. This will become a cost-recovery exercise which will be unaffordable to some farmers and diminish its effectiveness.

'Farmers who have battled the problem at considerable personal expense will see other farmers take a less committed approach.

'It is inevitable that broomrape will escape the current quarantine zone and get into other parts of the state and country, eventually affecting rural and regional economies.

'Remembering that Labor's promise to eradicate broomrape was a key to them getting into government in 2002, this abandonment of Mallee farmers shows what little integrity this government has.

'A \$100 million investment in SA's farming future is being allowed to run to seed.

'Time will show that the cost of failure will be far greater than the cost of success.'