

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Adrian Pederick MP JP**

Member for Hammond

**Opposition Whip**

**Shadow Minister for**

**Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests**

Wednesday June 30, 2010

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### **Pederick calls for full support for farmers against locusts**

The SA government's promise of assistance to farmers facing 'the biggest locust threat in 40 years' will leave many of them well out of pocket.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said today's statement by Premier Rann that the government was working closely with other governments and the farming community to combat the approaching plague did not go far enough to assist them.

'The Premier's statement of support followed an announcement by Agriculture Minister Michael O'Brien that the government would provide \$12.8 million to the plague control program,' Mr Pederick said.

'Minister O'Brien spoke of a subsidy to support chemical spraying by farmers "to deal with (locusts) conclusively". But it won't cover the chemical cost of treating their entire properties where necessary and it doesn't take into account that some farmers will have to spray two or three times, as was the case in 2000.

'Compare this to the Victorian government's promise to cover 100 per cent of their farmers' chemical costs.

'The Rann government's \$12.8 million is welcome but pales into insignificance compared with Victoria's commitment of \$43.5 million.

'I call on the government to provide full support to farmers to effectively combat the locust plague.'