

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

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

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‘Rotten’ apple decision

The recent decision by the Federal Labor government to allow Chinese apples into Australia has been labelled ‘rotten’.

SA Agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick said there were unanswered questions on the decision involving both the science and the decision-making process.

Mr Pederick said Australian apple industry spokesmen have pointed out the damage Chinese fruit fly has caused in the US and feel that risks have not been properly addressed.

‘It has also been strongly suggested that despite the Minister’s assurances that the decision was science-based and beyond his control the decision was in fact driven by trade deals rather than sound science.

‘I remind the Minister that he and his government are ultimately responsible for this decision and he owes it to Australian producers to ensure every aspect of this is properly considered before placing a \$400 million industry at grave risk.

‘I respect Biosecurity Australia’s role in this but if they’ve not been able to fully consider all risks and have been overruled by other influences, the Minister should step in and do his job.

‘This federal issue has a profound effect on SA, and threatens our \$52 million apple and pear industry.

‘We will not stand in the way of fair trade, but we will not stand by and see our own industries sacrificed for the sake of some dodgy trade deal.’