MEDIA RELEASE

Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP
Member for Stuart

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Win for Mid North and Southern Flinders farmers in locust battle

Member for Stuart, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, has secured a win for farmers in the Mid North and Southern Flinders region in the battle against locust plagues.

The Minister for Agriculture Hon Michael O'Brien, last week announced an emergency funding package to combat the serious threat of a locust plague in spring. The package included aerial spraying for the Riverland/Mallee region and also the Mid North/Southern Flinders region. However, the package only included a rebate for chemical purchases to help control locusts in the Riverland/Murray Mallee region.

According to the Minister for Agriculture's own media release on the 30th June;

> *"Failure to respond to this expected locust plague has the potential to cause billions of dollars in damage to agricultural production in South Australia in spring and summer."*

Mr van Holst Pellekaan approached Minister O'Brien urging him to change the rebate scheme to include farmers across the rest of the State.

Under the terms negotiated by Mr van Holst Pellekaan, farmers from the Mid North, Southern Flinders and Eyre Peninsula regions will now also have access to the rebate for chemical purchases.

In a letter from Minister O'Brien he said;

> *"... where a landholder in the Mid North, Upper North and Eyre Peninsula feel that hopper bands have not been effectively dealt with on their property the Government will consider providing additional support on a case by case basis."*

"This is a win for Stuart and other regions – all farmers deserve full protection against locusts.

"It is good to see the Minister has agreed to include these areas - it is clearly the logical, fair decision," Mr van Holst Pellekaan said.

Farmers who require the use of chemicals to spray their properties should contact PIRSA for further information.

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