

Friday, 7 September 2007

### DRAFT BILL AIMS TO FURTHER PROTECT SA FROM PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES

A draft Bill which aims to boost the protection of South Australia from plant pests and diseases has been released for public consultation.

The Acting Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Paul Holloway said the proposed Bill would provide legislative measures to further ensure the State has the ability to prevent incursions of new plant pests and diseases. It updates and replaces the current *Fruit and Plant Protection Act 1992*.

Mr Holloway said that proposed changes to the existing Act would minimise the potential for declared plant pests and diseases to be introduced into the State.

“It will maintain and improve legislative measures to ensure the appropriate response in the event of a new plant pest or disease outbreak within South Australia”, Minister Holloway said.

The draft Plant Health Bill 2007 includes:

- **ENHANCED** reporting requirement for quarantinable plant pests and diseases.
- **INCREASED** penalties to deter plant biosecurity breaches.
- **PROVISION** of a more flexible and cost-effective import verification system for importers of plants and plant produce.
- **REGULATION** of wholesale labelling requirements for packaging to provide improved traceability in the event of an outbreak of a declared plant pest or disease.
- **STREAMLINED** management of locusts within the State.

“South Australia has a good record of preventing and combating plant pests and diseases,” Mr Holloway said.

“This draft Bill ensures this effort is maintained and enhanced.

“For example, we have recently recorded our second fruit-fly free year in three years thanks to community, industry and PIRSA staff efforts. That means our industries gain access to important export markets, and our home-grown fruit remains free of fruit fly maggots.

“That’s why we take the importance of preventing and combating plant pests and diseases seriously. It affects us all in South Australia.”

As part of the consultation process, community meetings will be held at Virginia, Lenswood, Berri, Mount Gambier, and the Adelaide CBD during September and October. These will be in addition to industry briefings (see current schedule below).

An interpreter will attend a meeting for the Vietnamese market gardening community at Virginia. Further meetings will be considered if there is sufficient interest.

Copies of the draft Bill and a discussion paper can be downloaded from [www.pir.sa.gov.au/planthealth/legislation](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/planthealth/legislation) or can be requested by telephone on (08) 8226 7980.

Written submissions must be lodged with Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia by 9 November 2007 by post, fax or e-mail to: Plant Health Bill Consultation, Primary Industries and Resources SA, GPO Box 1671, ADELAIDE SA 5001. Fax 08 8463 3366. E-mail: [hannay.john@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:hannay.john@saugov.sa.gov.au)

### **Consultation meeting locations and dates**

#### **Lenswood:**

Monday 24 September 2007, PIRSA Lenswood Conference Room at 7.30pm

#### **Adelaide CBD:**

Wednesday 26 September 2007, Level 7 Training Room 101 Grenfell Street at 10.30am

#### **Mount Gambier:**

Wednesday 3 October 2007, Commodore on the Park at 3.00pm.

#### **Virginia:**

Tuesday 16 October 2007, Virginia Horticulture Centre at 2.00pm.

#### **Virginia – Vietnamese community:**

Tuesday 16 October 2007, Virginia Horticulture Centre at 5.00pm

#### **Berri:**

Thursday 18 October 2007, Berri Hotel/Motel at 7.30 pm