Government of South Australia

Our ref: eA205823
Obj ID: A7641340
Receipt: 23834722

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

The Hon Dr Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

By email: centofanti.office@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Dr Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries on 21 July 2026 requesting access to the following:

> *"A copy of all correspondence between the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development or the Minister's office, and the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry between 22/03/26 and 25/06/26"*

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located five documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Letter from Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 1/4/2026 re oversupply of wine and declining global consumption	2
2	Letter from Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry dated 9/4/2026 re the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus	2

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
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Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
3	Letter from Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 24/4/2026 re rabbit numbers in SA and rabbit biological control	2
4a	Attachment to Document 4 - Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Response Program Schedule AW	4

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
4	Letter from Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 21/5/2026 re Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Response Program	2

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

> *"**6 - Documents affecting personal affairs***
> *(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)."*

The information removed consists of the name and mobile telephone number of an officer from another agency.

The term 'personal affairs' has been held to involve 'matters of private concern to an individual' and the 'composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned'.

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Freedom of Information Act, consultation was undertaken with the third party concerned. Consent was not provided to disclose the name of the staff member and their mobile telephone number and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Notwithstanding that a mobile telephone number would reveal the name of the staff member, as a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individual concerned.

Right of Appeal

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 7322 7020 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

FOI Disclosure Log

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Jessica Scudds on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Clare Scriven

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

19 / 8 / 2026

Julie Collins MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Ref: MC26-000373

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

minister.scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Clare Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 17 February 2026, on behalf of the South Australian wine sector, regarding the ongoing oversupply of wine and the challenges associated with declining global consumption.

I acknowledge the seriousness of the challenges facing the sector, particularly the persistent oversupply of red wine, declining global consumption trends and reduced demand in key export markets. These issues require a collaborative response across all levels of government and industry. In this context, the establishment and work of the Viticulture and Wine Sector Working Group has been critical. I thank you and your department for your leadership and stewardship of this important group as government and industry respond to the group's advice and recommendations.

I also welcome the outcomes from your recent roundtables with Wine Australia, Australian Grape and Wine, Vinehealth Australia and regional representatives. The shared priorities identified in these discussions align closely with national efforts to strengthen the sector's long-term resilience, productivity and market focus.

The Australian Government continues to make progress in implementing the recommendations of the Viticulture and Wine Sector Working Group's final report. I am pleased to share the following updates on key initiatives currently underway.

National Vineyard Register

I recognise the development of the National Vineyard Register (NVR) is important to support improved data quality and informed decision-making across the sector. Wine Australia's recent announcement of Map of Ag Australia as the vendor to design and build the NVR represents a significant milestone. Development of the digital platform is scheduled to commence in March, with industry consultation forming a central part of this work.

As noted in my recent correspondence, Wine Australia has been engaging with Vinehealth Australia over the past 12 months to support the development of the NVR. I continue to welcome any assistance the South Australian government may be able to provide to expedite these discussions and facilitate the sharing of South Australian data through the NVR.

Mandatory Winegrape Purchases Code of conduct

On 15 December 2025, the Australian Government announced a new mandatory Code of Conduct for Winegrape Purchases, which will take effect from 1 January 2027. The Code, to be enforced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, will address power imbalances between growers and large winemakers by mandating fair contracting practices, good-faith negotiations, and access to dispute resolution mechanisms.

While the Code will not directly resolve the structural issue of oversupply, it will strengthen transparency and confidence in commercial relationships between growers and winemakers. By improving bargaining clarity, contracting practices and dispute resolution processes, the Code will support more equitable supply chain relationships, contributing to the sector's long-term stability and viability.

Thank you for sharing the outcomes of the roundtables and for your continued advocacy on behalf of South Australian growers and winemakers. The Australian Government remains committed to working collaboratively with industry and state governments to support a more sustainable and resilient wine sector.

Yours sincerely

Julie Collins MP

1 / 4 / 2026

eA204884

Government of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

The Honourable Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House correspondence:
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Minister.Collins@aff.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing to bring to your attention growing concerns regarding the diminishing effectiveness of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) and its implications for South Australia.

As one of the states most severely impacted by rabbit populations, South Australia relies heavily on the success of biological controls to protect our fragile rangelands and high-value agricultural regions. Since the 1950s, Australian agricultural industries have relied on rabbit biological control programs to suppress populations and safeguard productivity. While these programs have delivered substantial benefits over many decades, their impacts now appear to be waning. There is increasing evidence that rabbits' immunity is evolving, resulting in programs in some areas proving partially ineffective.

We have seen firsthand how effective RHDV can be when conditions are favourable, and rabbits are susceptible. However, recent indications of high levels of resistance suggest we may be approaching a tipping point. Without intervention, there is a genuine risk of a surge in rabbit numbers that could devastate primary producers and undo billions of dollars of land recovery and soil conservation investments.

In response to escalating impacts, the South Australian Government has invested more than $1.5 million over the past year through the Drought Support Program into the mechanical ripping of rabbit warrens. This significant commitment is a clear indication that rabbit impacts are increasing and that landholders are seeking additional tools to manage growing populations. Drought-impacted producers across the state have expressed strong appreciation for this support, which has materially reduced rabbit numbers in crops and pastures. In some locations, in the Upper Southeast and the Murray Mallee, densities exceeded 250 rabbits per hectare prior to the commencement of ripping activities, placing extraordinary pressure on already stressed farming systems.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

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While warren ripping is an effective control measure, it is labour-intensive and costly, and it cannot substitute for broad-scale biological suppression. The leadership and advancement of biological control programs have always required Commonwealth coordination and investment, and that remains the case today. The current proposal by CSIRO to invest in renewed rabbit biological control research reflects the scale and national significance of this challenge. Strong Commonwealth leadership is essential to ensure that new or enhanced agents are developed, tested and deployed in a timely and scientifically rigorous manner.

With much of South Australia still experiencing severe drought conditions, renewed Commonwealth investment in rabbit biological control is required to provide producers with confidence that long-term solutions are being pursued. It will signal that, alongside immediate drought relief measures, there is a commitment to restoring the effectiveness of the most powerful landscape-scale tool available to manage this invasive species.

To ensure South Australia is prepared for this evolving threat, I request that you provide an update on the following:

1. What Commonwealth funding is earmarked for the development of new biological agents or the enhancement of existing RHDV strains?
2. What is the Commonwealth Government's strategic plan to mitigate the impact of rising rabbit populations as current controls lose their potency?

The sustainability of our agricultural sector and the health of our environment depend on a coordinated and well-resourced national response. I look forward to your advice on how the Commonwealth intends to address this critical risk.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

/ / 2026

Julie Collins MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Ref: MC26-000971

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and
Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

minister.scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Clare

Thank you for your letter dated 9 April 2026, concerning rising rabbit numbers in South Australia and rabbit biological control.

I appreciate the South Australian Government's leadership in proactively supporting landholders to manage rabbits, including significant investment for warren ripping through the Drought Support Program. Further, I recognise the contribution of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (South Australia) in the development of the National Rabbit Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy.

The National Rabbit Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy provides recommendations to achieve long-term sustainable rabbit control. Researchers, government and industry are collaboratively working to progress recommendations in the Strategy.

Through the Environment and Invasives Committee, all governments have agreed to pursue national cost-sharing for the Future-proofing Rabbit Biocontrol (Phase 1) project to progress the next phase of rabbit biocontrol research in Australia. This project is also referred to as 'RHD Accelerator', a term used by the CSIRO to describe an approach that accelerates the natural selection of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) variants.

Through the project, the CSIRO is seeking to select RHDV variants as candidates for future release. Subject to success, Phase 2 would progress the most promising candidates through risk assessments, testing, registration and potential release.

The total cost of Phase 1 is $4 million. The Australian Government has already committed $500,000 (via my department) and $600,000 (via the CSIRO).

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, with support from the CSIRO, has secured $1.5 million from the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Donor Company (MDC), contingent on matched partner funding and final approvals and contracting. MDC is a fully-owned subsidiary of MLA that receives funding from the Commonwealth (up to 50 per cent) to invest with partners in eligible R&D projects.

As partners, state and territory governments are being asked to collectively contribute approximately $1.5 million (rounded up here for simplicity) across 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29, with the South Australian Government's contribution totalling $104,632. I encourage South Australia to ensure its cost-share is secured to enable contracting by July 2026.

The investment approach aligns with our shared responsibility for research across governments, industry and research organisations, under the National Biosecurity Strategy, to improve invasive species control tools.

The Australian Government is also investing with the CSIRO to support the National Rabbit Disease Monitoring Program. This program is collecting critical data on the various rabbit viruses circulating in Australia to inform potential future biocontrol agents. Further, we have co-invested in the National Rabbit Management Coordinator Program to help support best practice rabbit management across Australia.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the South Australian Government on rabbit management to protect our agricultural industries, environment and biodiversity from this invasive pest.

Yours sincerely

Julie Collins MP

24 / 4 / 2026

Julie Collins MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Ref: MS26-000146

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
GPO Box 1671
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minister.scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear ~~Minister~~ Clare

The Australian Government is committed to protecting Australia's biosecurity, and to working with industry and state and territory governments through agreed national biosecurity arrangements to prevent the introduction and establishment of exotic pests and diseases.

Through the Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs (the Agreement), parties recognise they have a shared responsibility for national biosecurity, and for preparing and effectively responding to outbreaks of exotic and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases. The Agreement and its associated schedules support the delivery of agreed preparedness and response programs.

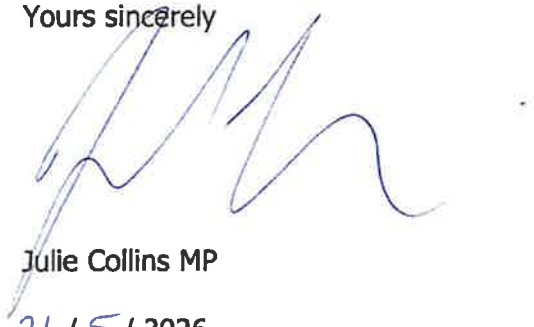
As a signatory to the Agreement, I am seeking your agreement to the schedule for the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Response Program (Schedule AW). The schedule will facilitate timely transfer of funding from the Commonwealth of Australia to the South Australia Government. Enclosed is Schedule AW for your countersignature.

The contact officer for this matter is Clause 6(1). National Biosecurity Emergency Response Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Clause 6(1) can be contacted on Clause 6(1).

Electronic copies of the signed schedule may be returned to response.policy@aff.gov.au.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



Julie Collins MP

21 / 5 / 2026

Enc. Schedule AW – Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Response Program

Schedule AW

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus Response Program – South Australia

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth South Australia (SA)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2028. For the purposes of Clause 10 of the *Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs*, this Schedule also expires on completion or termination of the '*Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) Eradication Response Plan*' (the Response Plan), as determined by the National Management Group (NMG). However, in those circumstances this Schedule still allows for the processing of any payments for milestones met up to termination.
Purpose	This Schedule supports the delivery of the Response Plan to contain and eradicate tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) from infected premises (IP) in SA, facilitating a return to production minimising impacts on industry, environment, and community.
Project Elements	The SA response to ToBRFV will deliver actions as detailed in the Response Plan, as agreed by the NMG on 29 May 2025. The project elements for the Response Plan are: (a) **Treatment**: Infected plants destroyed through incineration or deep burial. Decontamination measures applied including, use of chemicals, mandatory fallow period and testing after fallow period verifying absence of ToBRFV. (b) **Surveillance**: Surveillance activities will be performed at all risk premises including sampling crops and weedy hosts at IPs, trace properties and properties adjoining IPs. (c) **Community engagement**: Communication strategies will cover a broad range of stakeholders including impacted growers, industry members and the general public; delivered through various platforms including social media. (d) **Science**: A Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) has been established to address hygiene, disposal, and eradication; and sampling of host crops to confirm proof of freedom. Eradication protocols include the development and validation of swab testing as used successfully internationally. (e) **Containment**: To prevent further spread of ToBRFV through risk-based Quarantine Activities (QA) including the implementation of zoning, quarantine and movement controls, destruction, disposal, and decontamination of material. (f) **Policy and planning**: The SA eradication program is conducted under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). The program activities will be

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>conducted in accordance with the Plant Health Act 2009 (SA), PLANTPLAN and AUSVETPLAN response strategies.

(g) Support services: SA government has established a taskforce chaired by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA, to help impacted workers in response to the quarantine measures. An assistance hub has been established and includes providers such as Services Australia and the Rural Financial Counsellors Service.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Estimated financial contributions</td><td>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated financial contribution to SA of up to $4.250 million in respect of this Schedule.

The agreed maximum financial contribution for the ToBRFV Response Program is outlined in Table 1A and payable in accordance with the milestone set out in Table 2.

<table>
<tr><th>Table 1A
($ million)</th><th>2024-25</th><th>Total</th></tr>
<tr><td>Australian Government</td><td>3.673</td><td>3.673</td></tr>
<tr><td>Affected Industry Parties</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>AUSVEG Ltd.</td><td>0.298</td><td>0.298</td></tr>
<tr><td>Greenlife Industry Australia Ltd.</td><td>0.262</td><td>0.262</td></tr>
<tr><td>Australian Processing Tomato Research Council Inc.</td><td>0.017</td><td>0.017</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum Australian Government contribution to SA</td><td></td><td>4.250</td></tr>
</table>
Note: Table 1A reflects financial year in which response activities are conducted and differs to financial year of payment which is shown in Table 2 below. All payments are exclusive of GST. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and are outlined in full in Table 2.</td></tr>
</table>

Additional terms	1. The Program will be conducted in accordance with the EPPRD. 1.1. Reporting obligations are set out in Table 2, however, circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought, SA will provide such additional reporting at the request of the Commonwealth as is reasonable. 2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments approved by the NMG on 29 May 2025. 2.1. Final contributions, of 'Up to' the Commonwealth's maximum, will be based on actual expenditure and determined by the deed custodian, Plant Health Australia (PHA), in accordance with the EPPRD and the Response Plan. 2.2. The Commonwealth's maximum potential payments are set out in Table 2 milestone. However, where applicable, payments will be adjusted to match the Commonwealth's share of actual expenditure as determined under additional term 2.1. 2.3. Where the Affected Industry Party cannot meet its cost-sharing obligations either directly, or from funds held on its behalf, the Commonwealth will initially meet that Affected Industry Party's cost-sharing obligations as set out in clause 10.4.2 of the EPPRD. 2.4. Each Affected Industry Party will subsequently meet its cost-sharing obligations to the Commonwealth, arising as a consequence of the Commonwealth meeting Affected Industry Party obligations pursuant to clause 10.4.2, as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 7 of the EPPRD (clause 10.4.3). 2.5. An Upper Limit on Expenditure was agreed by the NMG as set out in Part 2, Schedule 10 of the EPPRD. The NMG will monitor and maintain oversight of expenditure ensuring actual expenditure remains within the agreed conditions of the Response Plan. Expenditure by Parties above the set Upper Limits may not be approved for cost-sharing by the NMG. 2.6. The Commonwealth Minister may, at their discretion, move all or part of an underspend against a milestone in a financial year to a milestone in another financial year. Such a circumstance may arise where the NMG has agreed that the Response Plan can be varied to include additional Cost-Shared activities, or extend duration, without increasing the overall maximum contribution under this Schedule. 3. This Schedule will be reassessed in conjunction with reviews of the status of the Response Plan and decisions by the NMG.

Table 2 South Australia – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Output	**Performance milestone**	**Report due**	**Payment**
To delimit, contain and eradicate ToBRFV in Australia while minimising impacts on industry, environment, and the community.	*Milestone 1* Commonwealth acceptance of the **Final Report** spanning the entire response period endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) as agreed by the NMG and Lead Agencies verified by PHA as eligible for cost-sharing.	May 2026	Up to $4,250,000.00 subject to the additional terms.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

Signed *for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by*

The Honourable Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

[Day] [Month] 2026
21/5/2026

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

[Day] [Month] 2026