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Flavour makes welcome return

DIANNE MATSSON
FOOD WRITER

RED ones, green ones, fat ones, skinny ones, even Black Russian heirloom tomatoes are putting the flavour back into our salads and sauces.

And the best thing about these exotic fruits is their flaws, says Margy Abbot of AMJ Produce. "Chefs love them because these are the real deal - unpampered, unmodified tom-

atoes," she said. "They are grown in South Australia from seedstock up to hundreds of years old, with lovely lumps, bumps and loads of old-fashioned flavour."

She said one Adelaide Plains grower added six new heirloom styles to his usual eight-variety crop this year, to meet demand for the misshapen glorious sweeties, some with saucy monikers such as Black Zebra, Rouge de Marmande, Purple

Calabash and Principe Borghese, along with Golden Yellow, Beef Steak and Brandy Wine.

Stefan Konstantinoff, who has owned McMahon's in the Adelaide Central Market for 25 years, said he was enjoying a trip down memory lane, with the "rough" tomatoes filling his stands.

"These are just like the Bucks my father used to grow," he said. The heirlooms were selling fast, even though many shoppers were "confused by the variety".

THE REAL THING: Stefan Konstantinoff from McMahon's with a range of tomatoes.

Picture: DYLAN COKER

Code of Conduct raised

Foley lobbying under scrutiny

RUSSELL EMMERSON

FORMER Deputy Premier Kevin Foley is being investigated for potential breaches of the state's Lobbying Code of Conduct.

Mr Foley resigned from Parliament in October 2011 after a distinguished career that included ministerial posts in Treasury, Defence and Industry.

But his post-Parliamentary career as a lobbyist has raised questions for the Opposition - in particular, whether Mr Foley represented clients during a two-year "blackout period".

Section 7.1 of the Code prohibits former Ministers from lobbying on behalf of clients for two years after their departure "relating to any matter with which they had official dealings in their last 18 months in office".

Opposition frontbencher Vickie Chapman has asked Department of Premier and Cabinet chief executive Jim Hallion, who nominally manages the Lobbyist Register, to investigate whether Mr Foley's representation of collapsed components maker Autodom breached this provision or "otherwise conducted his lobbying in an ethical and appropriate manner", the letter says.

Mr Foley has denied any

breach, saying he has always followed the Code, but would not comment further yesterday.

Mr Foley was Industries Minister in 2008 when Autodom was granted a three-year, \$3 million, interest-free loan in 2008.

Mr Foley has admitted he met current Industries Minister Tom Koutsantonis in November - putting him in the clear as far as his Industries Ministry goes (he stepped down in March 2010) but leaving open questions about his role as Treasurer (he did not step down until February 2011, meaning he is banned until February next year).

Ms Chapman said the distinction failed to respect the breadth of the Treasury role, with its financial links to every portfolio.

"The Code of Conduct is a standard that has been implemented by this Government and a standard that has been accepted as a measure of their responsibility," she said.

Mr Foley is also a consultant to Bespoke Approach, which counts SkyCity among its clients. He is prevented from revealing confidential information he received as Treasurer and from lobbying on their behalf - if it can be shown he dealt with them on taxes prior to leaving the Treasury post.



QUESTIONS: Former treasurer Kevin Foley.



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