

NOISE WORKS

How experts plan to seal the fate of these pests

Fur Seals on Kangaroo Island

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ELECTRONIC audio devices and underwater firecrackers are among methods that will be considered to reduce seal numbers in the Coorong as part of a \$100,000 State Government research project.

Environment Minister Ian Hunter has announced the funding as pressure continues to mount from the fishing industry and the community on finding a solution to the ongoing issue.

Mr Hunter said that evidence from overseas had shown culling to be ineffective, so the Government would trial humane, non-lethal deterrents.

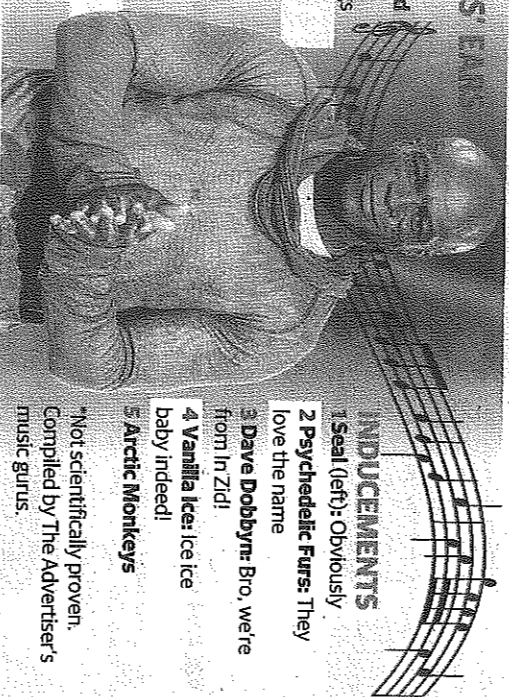
"It's important that we help fishers find a way to coexist with long-nosed fur seals, which are a natural part of our marine environment," he said.

"The Coorong fishery is one of the oldest in the state and we are committed to working with the fishers to ensure its long-term, sustainable survival."

MUSIC FOR SEALS' EARS

DETERRENENTS

- 1 **American hard rock band Great White:** Conjures up some uncomfortable feelings
- 2 **Fearful Sharky:** For similar reasons
- 3 **Willie Nelson:** Reminds them of Free Willy, which reminds them of orcas, and if there's one thing seals hate more than great whites it's orcas
- 4 **S-Club 7:** Seals don't like clubs
- 5 **The Beatles:** No, you ARE NOT the walrus



INDUCEMENTS

- 1 **Seal (left):** Obviously
 - 2 **Psychodelic Furs:** They love the name
 - 3 **Dave Dobbyn:** Bro, we're from In Zidi
 - 4 **Vanilla Ice:** Ice ice baby indeed!
 - 5 **Arctic Monkeys**
- Not scientifically proven. Compiled by The Advertiser's music gurus.

"But it's clear that long-nosed fur seals are having an impact on certain sectors, and that's why we're trialling these new measures — there is no reason that we cannot have healthy fisheries."

Mr Hunter said deterrents such as small underwater crackers, known as seal scarers, could be a new tool to assist fishers to manage seal impacts.

"The best science is showing that culling is not the answer to managing interactions between fur seals and fishers," he said.

"Experience from overseas fisheries has shown selective culling is ineffective, as removing one seal means that another will simply move in to take advantage of the available food."

"Relocation has shown to

the crackers "acoustic devices" would also be tested.

"We're looking at devices which produce soundwaves that make the seals feel uncomfortable, that are loud and a surprise," he said.

"Electronic audio devices will click, beep, boof and doof. Seals are intelligent so they can become accustomed the repetitive noise."

"This won't solve all of the problems. But we're looking at getting practical results so if the trial doesn't work we won't flog a dead horse."

The project will be jointly funded by Primary Industries and Regions SA and the Environment Department. "PIRSA and DEWNR have been working closely with the southern Fishermen's Association to address the impact of seals," Mr Hunter said.

"As part of this process, we are setting up a high-level working group to investigate and address issues associated with fur seals and their interactions with industries and the environment."

Brain op after fall for Lowy

WESTFIELD boss Frank Lowy has undergone brain surgery while on holiday in Europe for an injury suffered when he fell off the podium during the A-League Grand Final.

Mr Lowy, one of Australia's richest men and chairman of Football Federation Australia, is believed to have sustained a blood clot on the brain during the fall in May.

The 84-year-old Slovakian-born billionaire was only operated on when he began to feel ill during his European vacation with wife Shirley late last week.

"An examination revealed that he had a subdural haematoma which is not uncommon following trauma to the head," a statement released by Westfield said.

"He is now out of hospital and he is expected to make a full and rapid recovery."

Labelling for food falls short

FOOD companies won't be obliged to reveal the true country of origin of their ingredients despite a new system launched by the Abbott Government yesterday.

Companies will be encouraged, but not forced, to provide information on the origin of significant ingredients where possible, prompting fears that the Federal Government has rushed through a watered-down labelling system.

The mandatory labelling system will use phrases such as "Made in Australia from less than 25 per cent Australian ingredients" or "Made in Australia from more than 75 per cent Australian ingredients".

Vegetable grower group AusVeg said the new system fell short of genuine country-of-origin labelling changes promised in the wake of the Nanna's Brand frozen berries health scandal earlier this year.

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