

MEDIA RELEASE

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Foley's latest tax grab

Hobby farmers, breeders and even pet owners could be stung by Treasurer Foley's latest tax grab.

South Australian animal owners will now be charged fees aimed at identifying their property and tracking the number and type of animals they have.

The new tax will affect many animal groups including pony clubs, jumps clubs, dressage and polo, but even households with backyard chooks might incur the fee.

"...it should not just apply to what I would term serious livestock producers but also to hobbyists and owners of individual animals" (Agriculture Minister, Michael O'Brien, Hansard, Estimates Committee A, 13/10/10)

Shadow Agriculture Minister, Adrian Pederick said the Government's budget measure has taken many animal enthusiasts by surprise.

'My office has received a significant number of complaints from animal owners, both commercial and recreational, who now face a \$76 fee for a Property Identification Code (PIC).

'Every state has PICs but SA is the only state government in the country to charge for it.

'On top of this came the surprise announcement that a Biosecurity fee of \$185 would also be charged.

'There is confusion in the community about exactly who these fees will apply to and so far Minister O'Brien has failed to address the community's concerns.

Mr Pederick said the new fees were typical of the Government's announce and defend policy.

'The Rann Labor Government claims they have consulted with relevant organisations but as always, the 'consultation' was an information session on decisions that had already been made. Now, after my questions to the minister, more 'consultation' is planned.

"Minister O'Brien needs to reassure South Australian animal enthusiasts that there will be no double-up on services already proposed as part of a national biosecurity scheme,' Mr Pederick said.