

Animal health Biosecurity Fee and Property Identification Code – 28 Oct 2010

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:58): I will have another go, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEDERICK: Why did the government not distribute a PIRSA memo—

Members interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: We are actually trying to get your minister to answer something that he should know about. Why did the government not distribute a PIRSA memo about animal health biosecurity fees and the property identification code before making certain statements about its intentions on these matters in the budget papers and in subsequent questioning in budget estimates committees on 13 October? Is this, in fact, an about-face on the anticipated implementation of decisions that it had already taken? A so-called media release listing numerous dot points on the animal—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEDERICK: Well, that is the thing; it was unmarked.

Mr PEDERICK: —health biosecurity fee and the property identification code was made available to livestock industry groups on 18 October, apparently to facilitate further discussion and consultation on those matters. I am advised that no consultation as such took place before the announcements were made in the budget despite statements to the contrary by the minister.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN (Napier—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Northern Suburbs) (14:58): The member for Hammond makes me look brilliant again. I will take the question away, get my staff to analyse it to see whether we can make any sense out of it, and then I will return with a full and frank answer. At the moment, it was rambling and incoherent.