

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.

8 Feb 2011 - In reply to Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (28 October 2010).

The Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN (Napier—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Northern Suburbs): Biosecurity SA commenced discussion about mandating Property Identification Codes (PICs) with an associated fee with the chairs of my Ministerial livestock advisory groups covering sheep, cattle, horses, goats, pigs, deer and alpacas and a representative from the South Australian Farmers Federation at a meeting on 20 August 2010, before the 2010-11 budget was presented.

Following the presentation of the budget in September 2010, which included revenue and savings targets for the Biosecurity SA Animal Health program and the

PIC registration system, a second meeting was held on 24 September 2010. At this meeting Biosecurity SA informed the livestock industry and horse community representatives about the government's decision and Biosecurity SA proposals for achieving the budget targets, which included specifying the proposed PIC fee to recover costs of the PIC system and implementing a Biosecurity fee to recover costs of Animal Health services. Biosecurity SA sought feedback on how the proposed Biosecurity and PIC fees could be best implemented.

Delays in the process to draft a Bill to amend the Livestock Act 1997 to enable application of the Biosecurity fee provided an opportunity for further discussion with representatives and a third meeting was held on 25 October 2010 about implementing the mandatory PIC system, the PIC fee and the Biosecurity fee. Further discussions will be held by Biosecurity SA prior to a Bill being presented to Parliament.