

Thursday December 1, 2011

Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

&

Hon John Dawkins MLC

Joint Party Secretary, Shadow Cabinet Secretary

Biosecurity fees to be scrutinised

The decision by the Legislative Council to have proposed biosecurity fees investigated by a parliamentary committee is a win for reason and fair play for South Australian farmers.

A motion to have the proposed fees scrutinised before their introduction was passed by the State's Upper House last night.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick, who prepared the motion, said he was pleased his opposition colleague, the Hon John Dawkins MLC, had put the motion successfully.

"This Government has shown complete disregard for the views and needs of its most important industry," Mr Pederick said.

"To them, farmers are easy prey for extra fees and charges. Constantly adding to farmers' costs will kill the goose that lays the State's golden egg.

"It is vital that SA farm products remain competitive on world markets.

"This motion to put the whole matter of cost recovery, variable rates, fair cost-sharing across the different industry sectors and what is reasonable for the public purse to bear needs thorough and careful investigation, which the Environment, Resources and Development Committee will provide.

"There is also the matter of double-dipping where producers already pay through industry levies for biosecurity services provided by the commonwealth.

"I note the support of all cross-benchers' for this motion. Their action demonstrates that this matter is above party politics and Mr Dawkins and I thank them for their support.

"This is an excellent result for the state's growers and producers as it gives them an opportunity to present their views."

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