


INQUIRY INTO ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE IN NSW

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Position: Egg Farmer

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Mr
In tabled by Bede Burke
5/9/07 public forum


Presentation By Bede Burke
Venue: West Tamworth Diggers
Date ;5th September 2007

Issues with Government and how it affects agriculture

1. Caged Layer Egg Industry

- Decided by the ARMCANZ to move to more welfare friendly cages by

a.Key Stakeholders

- State and Federal Ministers of Agriculture only one of who now, 7 years later , still holds that portfolio
- Welfare , liberationists and industry

b.Key components – due January 2008

- Bird Space moved from 450 to 550 cm per bird
- 20 years of life to produce from, from the date of installation
- Make non compliant cages illegal
- Appropriate punitive legislation in place

c.Progress

- To date Queensland,ACT,Tasmania Northern Territory have legislation in place and now Victoria has softer legislation
- Now with the Equine Influenza outbreak, all resources are being put to it and this will probably further delay the legislation.
- *I have a development application approved and need to have this legislation in place to order cages from Europe by the 1st November 2007.*

What have our elected representatives delivered for us??

1989 - Complete deregulation of a production and marketing system in NSW
– followed by most other states

Paid back \$15.00 /bird and acquired all statutory assets

Made producing at non market locations a competitive disadvantage

Tamworth in 1989 had 1 million birds equating to 20% of state

production –

Now has 400,000 birds equating to 8% of state production beyond

2008 probably 100,000 – 250,000 equating to 4% or less of state
production

2008 – National Cage legislation that is non uniform, and in NSW is still pending

Environmental Impact requirements – again non uniform between the states e.g.

- NSW for less than 240,000 birds only requires an S.E.E....
More than 250,000 requires an E.I.S.
- Victoria is much larger than that

GST

- Thanks to Meg Lees of the Democrats we have no GST on food products that require no further processing
- Outcomes – the egg industry pays GST on all inputs and receives no GST on revenues of sale of eggs
- Results – in my business with an egg turnover of approx \$1.2 m , I require another 10,000 per month to finance it
- Also need to do BAS monthly to minimize this capital requirement

- Tamworth used to have a cage manufacturing industry now we have to import from Europe , America or China
- For the new cages I intend to install , 8 people will come from Malaysia and fully install the cages over 8 weeks more cost effectively than I can employ local labour
- With the lock up of the Brigalow, I am now unable to procure soft wood shavings for deep litter chicken rearing. These were by products of the local sawmilling industry.
- Now shedding is fully environmentally controlled what guarantee do I have of the power grid not failing next summer and beyond – power base loads requirements are already not coping
- Stamp Duty – State revenue is an outrage
- Intergenerational transfer exemption has been the only good decision this government has made on this issue.
- Fire Services Levy
- Insurance Premiums
- Water infrastructure – the upgrade of Chaffey Dam is most welcome
- Indirect Labour Costs

Workers compensation,
Leave Loading

- OH & S - the responsibility for employee behaviour – who does it lie with?
- Litigation
- Rego/ Roadworthy now
- Rego for farm vehicles
- Lack of students studying agriculture
- Lack of investment in the country/regional infrastructure
- Absolute costs of investments

Government consultation with communities, like this one, is to be commended