



FROM MATT'S PERCH

By Matthew Russell

Well as of the 1st of January this year if you keep one or more horses, cows, sheep, pigs, goats, deer, alpacas, buffaloes, donkeys, camels, mules or llamas you need to get a Property Identification Code (PIC) from the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA) and pay a \$76.00 registration fee for something that is free in other states. The fee will cover the first two years, and after that there has been no word on the cost.

Scrutiny of Hansard (the record of parliamentary proceedings) shows that the South Australian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Minister for Forests; Minister for Regional Development, the Hon. Michael O'Brien MP, even wishes to include in the PIC scheme anyone who keeps a couple of sheep on their property to keep the grass down!

As you can see there is an absence of the words "bird", "poultry", *etc.* in the list of animals above, but if you look on the application form to get a PIC you will find a section for poultry. Just so you know, the department consider quail, ducks and pheasants to be poultry. I can't see them being excluded for much longer, all it will take is a outbreak of bird flu in Asia and I would say they go on the list. I have also heard rumours of an \$80.00 annual biosecurity levy to be put on top of the \$76.00 registration fee.

If what the department calls "ornamental aviary birds" are included in this scheme, I can see it killing off aviculture in this state. If you were a young kid wanting to keep a few birds and you found you needed to pay the government almost \$200.00 annually to have \$20.00 worth of Zebra Finches or Budgies, I think you would find your parents advising you to find a less expensive hobby.

Sure, we need adequate measures in place in case we are ever unfortunate enough to have an outbreak of a virulent avian disease, but to expect South Australian hobbyists to fork out almost \$200.00 a year for something that is free of charge in the rest of the country is way over the top.

Your Committee is developing strategies to counter the PIC scheme in an effort to ensure no, or minimal effect on our hobby.

Cheers,

Matt