

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 1682
Asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

Will he explain the need for additional property to property cattle transfer fees, which I understand will be introduced from 1 January 2009, incurring a \$14 fee per form per transfer?

ANSWER:

I am advised that the fees in question are being introduced by Meat and Livestock Australia as managers of the National Livestock Identification System database. The policy on fees has been decided by the National Livestock Identification System Executive Committee that consists of peak industry council, national and state government representatives.

The fees only apply to paper forms submitted to the database – these currently represent less than two percent of all transfers conducted. All electronic transfers remain free of charge.

I am also advised that the decision was based on the high error rates that accompany such documents and the need for National Livestock and Identification System staff to spend a considerable amount of time in contacting submitters to obtain the correct information.