



MEDIA RELEASE
SF/353. Tuesday, July 15, 2008

WILL THERE BE A FART TAX?

AS Australians await the Rudd Government's Wednesday release of its Green Paper on its emissions trading scheme, an important question remains unanswered – will there be a fart tax?

Will the Rudd government confirm whether it will do what New Zealand did, which is, propose a fart tax?

The Rudd Government needs to say whether it will include the methane gas produced by cows and sheep in its emissions trading scheme.

“It might sound like a joke but penalising farmers for the gases produced by livestock is a serious matter. The CSIRO has been working for years on foods consumed by cows and sheep to help reduce their greenhouse gas emissions,” Family First Leader Senator Steve Fielding said today.

“Slapping extra costs on farmers because their animals fart is a serious problem, as the New Zealand government found out when it was forced to drop its tax after farmers decided it was a stinker,” said Senator Fielding.

“If the Rudd Government does propose a new fart tax, Family First wants to know the exact impact on farmers.”

FACTS:

1. Methane from sheep and cattle is estimated to account for over 12% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of agricultural emissions .(National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, 2006)

Beef Cooperative Research Centre hopes to cut Australia's livestock methane emissions by 20 per cent by 2012. (ABC, Landline, “Scientists aiming to cut livestock emissions”, First Published 15 April 2007)

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