



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Agriculture

Tuesday, 30 September, 2008

PRODUCERS NOW OFFERED A CHOICE OF AFFORDABLE TAGS

Victorian sheep producers will now get a new brand of subsidised electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) sheep tags, thanks to Brumby Government funding.

Agriculture Minister Joe Helper said the NLIS (sheep) tags, made by Leader Products, would provide Victorian producers who are interested in using electronic technology with a variety of choice.

“There has been considerable producer interest in the use of electronic identification technology because of the significant limitations of tags that can only be read visually,” Mr Helper said.

“In the past, however, the cost of \$2.50 per electronic tag has discouraged farmers from using them, thanks to our subsidy however the tags can be bought for \$1.35 each.”

The Leader Products tag has the same transponder technology to that used in the electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags made by Allflex, and in all NLIS (Cattle) tags.

Producers who choose to purchase electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags are not required to also attach a visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tag. Each electronic tag will be printed with a visually readable Property Identification Code (PIC) and serial number.

Mr Helper said the use of electronic technology as part of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) complements the current system which is based on visually readable tags and paper based records.

“The Department of Primary Industries is also establishing a database that industry participants will be able to use if they wish to record or retrieve information about sheep identified with electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags,” he said.

“In addition to cheaper tag costs, wool growers and sheepmeat producers are still able to apply for a Brumby Government dollar-for-dollar grant of up to \$2500 to assist with the purchase of readers, software and technical support.”

Victoria’s Sheep and Goat Identification Advisory Committee (SIAC) supports the introduction of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags for use by producers on a voluntary basis, and is overseeing trials of electronic technology within all sectors of the Victorian sheep industry

For information on electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags including on-line tag ordering arrangements, and on producer grants, visit the web site at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis or call the NLIS Helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.