

Tuesday, 26 May 2026

Council welcomes reduction in livestock freight costs for KI farmers

Kangaroo Island Council has welcomed news the Island's farmers will get some relief from the cost of moving livestock on and off the Island once SeaLink's new ferries commence.

Originally SeaLink had planned to introduce a multiplier of 1.5 for the freight cost for livestock to bring this freight in line with dangerous goods.

The State Government announced today that this multiplier has been cut to 1.2 after negotiations with SeaLink.

Kangaroo Island Council and AgKI today convened a meeting with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Joe Szakacs, Member for Mawson Jenni Mitton, SeaLink and agriculture and tourism industry representatives, where the reduction was announced.

Kangaroo Island Mayor Michael Pengilly commended the State Government and SeaLink on working together on a resolution.

"Today's announcement of a reduction in the livestock freight multiplier is a fantastic result for the Island's farmers – the looming increase in freight costs has been causing a lot of angst amongst the local agriculture industry," said Mr Pengilly.

"I commend the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Joe Szakacs for listening to the concerns of local producers and working with SeaLink on negotiating a reduction.

"The local industry can now move forward with a bit more certainty regarding the cost of doing business once the new ferries commence.

"It was also pleasing to have the Minister, the Member for Mawson Jenni Mitton and SeaLink in the room together today to answer questions from local freight companies, the tourism sector and agriculture industry about the work that's left to do ahead of the new ferries starting in September," Mr Pengilly said.

AgKI Chair Peter Cooper said: "The commitment from all parties to ensure clear communication is prioritised as we get closer to the planned three-day shutdown for infrastructure works, including installation of the new vehicle ramps at Cape Jervis and Penneshaw for the new ferries, will be key.

"Farmers, freight companies and residents all need to be able to plan for this significant disruption, so it will be vitally important they have all the information they need in the lead-up to the works.

"AgKI looks forward to hearing more about the preparations for the scheduled shut-down as they firm up so operators can plan ahead," Mr Cooper said.

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