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Parliamentary Enquiry for Farmers Proposed

SA farmers could soon get the opportunity to air their grievances about the performance of machinery manufacturers before a parliamentary enquiry.

In State Parliament yesterday (Thursday 10th September) State Labor MP Mr Tony Piccolo raised the concerns expressed to him by farmers in his electorate about how they are treated by machinery manufacturers when things go wrong.

Mr Piccolo told state parliament that a dispute between a local farmer in his electorate and a machinery manufacturer had cost the farmer about a \$1 million in repair costs, lost productivity and legal bills.

Mr Piccolo said that "farmers often have to capitulate to the manufacturers because they cannot afford the legal bills".

Mr Piccolo said he "was suggesting a parliamentary inquiry so that farmers can tell their story without the fear of legal action, because this is a tactic which the manufacturers appear keen to utilise at the first opportunity."

"A parliamentary inquiry would assess whether existing laws provide farmers with sufficient protection and whether there are sufficient avenues to have their grievances resolved." said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo told parliament "the other issue relates to the safety concerns raised from machinery and equipment that is faulty and where the manufacturer refuses to take the necessary action."

"In the case of my constituent, it has been alleged and supported by an independent safety report that the faulty machinery could result in lives being put at risk."

"There is some comment in the community that some serious incidents have already occurred as a result of machinery not having been repaired properly."

Mr Piccolo said that he would like to hear from farmers who have experienced significant problems with manufacturers refusing to undertake repairs or replace faulty equipment and machinery.

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