

Anger over land clear law

SA's rural communities were angry at the new land clearing regulations, the United Farmers and Stockowners said today.

An angry UFS delegation will meet the Environment Minister, Dr Hopgood, tomorrow to demand an explanation for the controls.

The UFS is furious it was not consulted about unheralded, closely-guarded controls banning land clearance without Government consent.

The announcement sent shock waves through the rural sector.

The UFS and SA's weekly rural newspaper, the Stock Journal, also are angry Dr Hopgood did not invite them to his Press conference announcing the controls.

The Government has prohibited landowners from clearing native vegetation without permission of the SA Planning Commission. There is a maximum fine of \$10,000.

UFS spokesman, Mr D.

By Craig Bildstien

Pfitzner, said today hundreds of people had bought scrubland with the objective of turning it into productive agricultural land.

Agriculture already had lost some of its best land to urban development.

"Perhaps we should have a moratorium on urban development on land suitable for agriculture," he said.

Little faith

Mr Pfitzner said the new scheme showed what little faith the Government had in farmers.

Editorialising on the decision, the Stock Journal asked:

"Do we really care whether the stick nest rat or the rabbit-eared bandicoot are extinct when the many hundreds



Dr Hopgood

of thousands of hungry mouths which exist in some of the poor countries could well place some human races in the same category?"

It continued: "Is the fact that the swamp mouse or sand-hill dunart or carpet python could be threatened by clearing of land for growing food and clothing for a starving world really important?"

"Where in Heaven's name is the ideal and logical compromise."

The UFS tomorrow is expected to demand compensation for farmers,

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