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~~/\$541m for farmers/~~

~~LIVESTOCK~~ farmers forced out of business by tough anti-pollution controls are to be paid \$541 million in compensation over 10 years.

The amount is to compensate farmers affected by the 10-year livestock waste control scheme, which was implemented in 1987.

Legislators yesterday approved two sums of \$71 million and \$99.9 million for ~~ex gratia~~ allowances for this and the next financial year.

which have been included in the \$541 million package.

Defending the need for additional funds, the administration said that estimates were first made using a 1979 livestock census and the assumption that only 30 per cent of farmers would apply for *ex gratia* allowances.

However, this had been superseded by a 1987 survey and a new estimate that 50 per cent of farmers would opt for the handout.