people news

Farmers will be hampered by carbon tax – Kelly

The farming sector is not being helped by the imposition of a carbon tax, at a time when the agricultural sector is vital to the recovery of the economy, Roscommon Labour Councillor, John Kelly, *right,* said this week.

"I want to put on record that what is vital to the recovery of this economy is how the rural economy will thrive," he said. "The imposition of the carbon tax, for example, particularly as it pertains to marked gas oil or agricultural diesel, will have a severe impact in terms of the cost inputs for those who operate within the agricultural sector.

"Be they primary producers or agricultural contractors, the very fact a tax of this nature is being levied at 8.7 percent when road diesel is at 4.4 percent will cause an undue cost impact for those who are operating within this sector, and it needs to be revised.

"There is an irony to the situation. For the multiples such as Tesco, their lorries on the road are subject to a tax of 4.4 percent whereas the primary producers such as the farmers who are producing for the multiples are being levied at 8.7 percent, which will put a further squeeze on those primary producers in terms of their ability to supply goods into the market.

"This is an issue that needs to be taken on board, particularly by the Green wing of the Government, who have heralded this carbon tax as the dawn of a new age," Cllr. Kelly pointed out. "In principle, we are all in favour of the tax, but it has to be on the basis that it is levied with some degree of equity and fairness. I do not believe a proper analysis was undertaken of this measure before it was decided upon.

"It should be revised and revisited because it has not been costed and it will have a negative impact on the very recovery that is necessary for this economy, particularly in terms of how the rural economy weighs into that recovery," said Cllr. Kelly.

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