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Electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Sheep & Goats)
- A transition package for Victoria

Livestock SA is the South Australian member of the the Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA), WoolProducers Australia (WPA) and the Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA), and as such we endorse their submissions.

Livestock SA is the peak organisation representing beef cattle, sheep and goat producers in South Australia and as such we are very concerned at the impact the Victorian decision to mandate the use of electronic ear tags in sheep and goats will have on our producers and the movement of livestock between the two States.

It has been noted that in the draft proposed Electronic NLIS (Sheep & Goats) Standards that sheep and goats born after 1 January 2017 on a property outside of Victoria and that are subsequently transported to Victoria do not need an electronic ear tag provided that they are identified at the time of entry into Victoria in accordance with the legal requirements in the jurisdiction from which they were dispatched. There is no mention of how long this 'exemption' will apply.

It is also noted that regardless of this exemption, for sheep and goats from South Australia that are not identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag, producers will need to provide evidence that the animals do not need to be identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

For Victorian producers sending sheep or goats to South Australia after 1 January 2017 they will need to ensure their stock are identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag even though not required in South Australia.



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The Victorian decision to go it alone and mandate the use of electronic ear tags in sheep and goats will undoubtedly disrupt the current level of stock movements between the two States and this will impact not only on the regional economies near the Victorian/South Australian border but the economy of both States. There will be an immediate impact in the saleyards in the South East of South Australia and in Western Victoria, where up to date it is not unknown for there to be considerable livestock from both States offered for sale at each livestock sale. It is not surprising that livestock agents are rightfully angry about the implications of this decision as it could well speed up the demise of saleyards.

In South Australia, there are good programs in place such as abattoir surveillance and it would be a retrograde step to move away from what currently works well. While the use of RFIDs leads to productivity gains at this stage, it should not be mandatory.

Geoff Power
President Livestock SA