



## From the president

With  
**GEOFF POWER**



**This month, Livestock SA has again needed to reinforce the fact that animal welfare is at the forefront of every decision we make on-farm and we do not ever condone any behaviour to the contrary.**

The misrepresentation of our industry in recent weeks by animal rights groups is disappointing but at the same time, I do not believe the Australian public would be fooled by such a charade as the latest attempt by PETA depicting a foam sheep covered in red paint, supposedly representing shearing.

My comments – published in the Sunday Mail – conveyed that Livestock SA believed the campaign to be false, doctored and misleading and that we, as an industry, had never seen a sheep shorn like the one represented in the PETA poster. We have a strict, nationally-accredited and professional shearer and shed-hand training system in place which

teaches potential shearers to carry out the task in an ethical manner.

In these attacks on the industry and us as livestock producers, Livestock SA works through national organisations to ensure a unified response, including WoolProducers Australia, Cattle Council of Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Goat Industry Council of Australia and the South East Australian Livestock Exporters Association.

### Water pricing

The increasing cost of mains water for livestock production is forcing farmers to make decisions on their future in the industry.

At present, livestock producers are paying a maximum of \$3.23 a kilolitre but we believe the current price should be set at 62 cents per kilolitre, which the Essential Services Commission of SA has calculated to be the long-run marginal cost of supply to Greater Adelaide.

At the very least, the government should lower the cost of pipeline water in peak times when stock are drinking heavily. At present, high water costs are inhibiting the cattle and sheep industries from expanding.

## Mandatory microchipping proposed for working dogs

**LIVESTOCK farmers are urged to comment on a range of animal welfare reforms that could impact breeding of working dogs.**

The proposed reforms include development of a breeding code of practice and changes to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Two of the key reforms include mandatory microchipping for all dogs and cats and compulsory registration of breeders with the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter opened a consultation period last month. The closing date for comments on the code is May 29 and to change the Act is June 26.

> **Details:** Visit <http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/yoursay/south-australia-s-dog-and-cat-reforms> or contact Livestock SA to add comments to its submission.

## Beef industry awards open

**Calling all young stars of the beef industry – it is time to nominate for the Cattle Council of Australia and NAB Agribusiness Rising Champions Award.**

The award enables participants to create networks in the industry, meet other like-minded people in beef, and develop knowledge, political acumen and leadership skills.

It is open to young people between 21 and 35 who are committed to the Australian beef industry, including farmers, station hands, agribusiness professionals and production workers.

The award recognises a commitment to the industry, desire to contribute to industry solutions, personal drive and focus, leadership capability, effective communication and the desire to be a role model to others. Applications close May 31.

> **More information:** 02 6269 5600 or [www.cattlecouncil.com.au/rising-champions](http://www.cattlecouncil.com.au/rising-champions)



# New partnership to help farmers with fast, free pest animal control



Sporting Shooters Association of Australia's Matt Godson and David Handyside with PPSA chair Rob Kerin and Livestock SA's Deane Crabb at the launch of the new program SSAA Farmer Assist.

## A NEW program launched by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia is providing landholders with access to a database of professionally-accredited shooters to help with on-property pest animal control.

The program – called SSAA Farmer Assist – registers SSAA members as shooters, ensuring they have a skill competency equivalent to commercial professional macropod harvesters.

Their services for farmers are free and the program is being rolled out across South Australia this month, after a successful pilot was run in Queensland.

To be part of the program, farmers need to register online with a current email address and then create a job advertisement to manage applications from shooters. Farmers have sole responsibility of who they invite onto their property and can change or withdraw permission at any time.

SSAA Farmer Assist national coordinator Matt Godson said the online tool was developed to provide farmers with a free, simple and fast service for dealing with problem wildlife.

"We have worked closely with farmers to develop a tool which is both useful and practical," he said.

Primary Producers SA chair Rob Kerin says the SSAA Farmer Assist program was a responsible form of pest control that would help reduce the impact of pest animals on many of the state's rural businesses.

"All six commodity members of the PPSA believe that their members could benefit from this program, which is a means of engaging people who are qualified and accredited to help in pest mitigation and to achieve strong animal welfare, production and economic outcomes."

> **More information** and to register visit [www.farmerassist.com.au](http://www.farmerassist.com.au)

## MLA producer forums in SA

### Meat & Livestock Australia will host a series of regional producer forums - 'Your Levy, Your Industry' - in southern Australia during May and June this year.

Beef, sheepmeat and goat producers will hear from MLA managing director Richard Norton, learn about MLA's new research and development consultation model and have input into the future direction of their marketing and R&D levies. Producers can also have input directly to MLA.

The forums are free and complimentary morning tea, refreshments and BBQ lunch provided. Registration is essential via the websites listed right, email [info@mla.com.au](mailto:info@mla.com.au) or phone MLA on 02 9463 9333

### Forum locations:

- > **Hamilton - Thursday, May 21.**  
Register at [www.mlaforumhamilton.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.mlaforumhamilton.eventbrite.com.au)
- > **Bordertown - Tuesday, June 16.**  
Register at [www.mlaforumbordertown.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.mlaforumbordertown.eventbrite.com.au)
- > **Clare - Wednesday, June 17.**  
Register at [www.mlaforumclare.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.mlaforumclare.eventbrite.com.au)
- > **Broken Hill - Thursday, June 18.**  
Register at [www.mlaforumbrokenhill.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.mlaforumbrokenhill.eventbrite.com.au)

## News In Brief

Livestock SA has had a busy month representing the views of livestock producers on a number of state and national issues:

### National Wild Dog Action Plan support

Livestock SA wrote to Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce urging him to support a \$1.35 million grant for the continuation of the National Wild Dog Action Plan in 2015-16 and 2016-17. The plan is an industry driven initiative and focuses on areas that are nationally significant to the greater control and management of wild dogs.

### Use of 1080 on certified properties

Livestock SA strongly supports the use of 1080 on organic certified properties to control wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs to ensure the organic sheep and cattle industries continue in future. The submission highlighted the damage wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs do to the sheep and cattle industries and that they do not differentiate between organic farmed land and any other farming system. While pastoralists do their best to control dogs through shooting, it is hard to reduce the predator population without access to some other form of control.

### Land, vehicle tax in focus with review

Livestock SA outlined its views on proposed changes to the South Australian taxation system in a submission on the State Tax Review Discussion Paper. It said any changes to current land tax exemptions for primary production land or changes to a user-pays system for road and vehicle taxes would severely impact the livestock industry's profitability and flow-on benefits to the State's economy. It said placing a land tax on primary production would reduce competitiveness, reduce land values, destroy equity, cause lenders to reassess their criteria, make capital attraction difficult, and create an uneven playing field between SA and other states.

**More information:**  
View all Livestock SA submissions online at [www.livestocksa.org.au/pages/news/submissions.php](http://www.livestocksa.org.au/pages/news/submissions.php)