



Livestock SA met with producers at the South East Field Days last month, including Southern Region secretary Tom Dawkins, board member Steve Radeski, president Geoff Power and Southern Region vice-chairman Lachlan Grundy.



From the president

With
GEOFF POWER



LAST month's news that the Pastoral Board looks likely to be retained is great news for pastoralists.

The change of position came about through negotiations between the Labor and Liberal parties and also highlights the need for organisations such as Livestock SA, which quietly worked in the background meeting with politicians and bureaucrats to communicate the importance of the board and some of the changes that could be made to improve it. The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is also likely to be retained.

Community Cabinet

All State Government Ministers met at Ororoo and Peterborough late in March as part of Community Cabinet.

This was a prime opportunity for Livestock SA to outline our top issues impacting producers. We met one-on-one with Agriculture Minister Leon Bignell, Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock, Transport Minister Stephen Mullighan and Environment Minister Ian Hunter. Some of the issues discussed included the cost of water delivered through the SA Water network, continued dry conditions in northern SA, progress on the Sheep Industry Blueprint, and wild dog control.

About 200 people attended a community forum where the time zone change issue was discussed. The consensus from the crowd was that we should not move to eastern states time but should remain with our current zone or even move half an hour toward Western Australia. The government said it had not yet decided one way or the other.

Northern issues

Most of the State and Federally funded water infrastructure grants have been implemented in the Far North and hopefully these on-farm projects are helping pastoralists still battling drought plan for recovery when rains arrive.

Wild dogs continue to cause frustration for graziers but last month a designated trapper started work in the SA Arid Lands NRM region. Dogs have been trapped on the western side of Lake Torrens.

On the road

Livestock SA reps have met and discussed industry issues in the north and the south of SA in March – at the Mid North Merino Field Day at Burra and South East Field Days at Lucindale. Funding of ongoing maintenance of the South East drains network remains a key issue and we are encouraging all members in the SE to start talking to their neighbours about Livestock SA membership. These issues that impinge on our ability to farm productivity and profitability must be tackled with unity ... and we can only do that with all producers signed up as members.

WoolPoll 2015

South Australia will be represented on the 2015 WoolPoll Panel by Richard Halliday, as president of WoolProducers Australia, and stud Merino breeder Sydney Lawrie, Eyre Peninsula.

WoolPoll Panel chair Will Roberts, Queensland, thanked all nominees, saying the field of candidates was very strong. The 2015 panel members are:

- > Will Roberts, Panel Chair, Qld
- > Georgina Wallace, Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders, Tas
- > Richard Halliday, WoolProducers Australia, SA
- > Bindi Murray, Western Australian Farmers Federation
- > Adele Offley, NSW Farmers Association
- > Ian Feldtmann, Victorian Farmers Federation
- > Robert Ingram, Australian Wool Growers Association, NSW
- > Sydney Lawrie, Livestock SA
- > Fran Freeman, Federal Department of Agriculture
- > Dr Meredith Sheil, AWI Board, NSW



Transport survey identifies key ways to improve freight efficiency

A RAFT of transport issues hampering daily activities for farmers have been collated for resolution as part of the Change@SA transport survey.

The State Government – through Primary Industries & Regions SA and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure – worked with Primary Producers SA, including Livestock SA, to survey growers on key road transport issues impacting their businesses. These could include movement of agricultural machinery on public roads, route extensions and allowable trailer combinations, and short-distance or 'last mile' access to properties or facilities.

In total, 680 responses were received which included 67 percent from primary producers, 17pc transport operators, 5pc processors and manufacturers and 11pc contractors. About 90pc of issues related to areas outside Adelaide.

The issues have been compiled into a report, *A Modern Transport System for Agriculture: A New Partnership Approach*, and released last month by the State Government.

Livestock-specific outcomes include:

- > Upgrading access to the Jamestown saleyards for B-doubles and road trains, avoiding the need for them to pass through the centre of the town. The survey identified that for about \$100,000 minor roadworks to the

northern end of OD5 Road could give heavy vehicles access to the saleyards from RM Williams Way while improving the southern end of OD5 Road and its junction with Cockburn Road could give access for vehicles travelling from the east.

- > Approval for BAB Quad and ABB Quad road train access to the 53.5-metre road train network between the Northern Territory border and Port Augusta.
- > Extending the maximum permitted length of a road train prime mover when operating as a semi-trailer from 19 to 20 metres.
- > Amending the existing SA tri-axle dolly policy to be nationally consistent.
- > Upgrading the road access on Carslake Road, Dublin from general mass limit (GML) to high mass limit (HML).
- > Increasing the travel radius for which a primary producer must carry and fill out a heavy vehicle fatigue work diary from 100km to 160km.
- > Establishing a common registration date to make it easier for farmers to register multiple farm vehicles.

A project steering group will meet quarterly in 2015-16 to progress solutions to issues raised.

> **More information:** Download the report at www.pir.sa.gov.au

News In Brief

Animal protection

Livestock SA made a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport and its Inquiry into Criminal Code Amendment (Animal Protection) Bill 2015. Livestock SA supports this Bill as it requires the immediate reporting of actions of cruelty and provides protection from unlawful entry and trespassing onto properties where livestock producers are lawfully carrying on their business.

Goat NVDs



Livestock SA is supporting the Goat Industry Council's proposal to add a question to the goat NVD to identify producers using the tagging exemption rather than a case-by-case permit system.

Draft code for dog breeding



Livestock SA member Kay Hocking represented the organisation at a meeting to develop a code of practice for breeding dogs and cats. She highlighted to the group areas of the draft legislation with which working dog breeders would not be able to comply. The next stage in the code's development is for SA Minister Ian Hunter to approve a draft and open it to three months of public consultation.

Cattle Council membership



Livestock SA is reminding all cattle producers to sign up as Cattle Council of Australia members. This includes producers who are already members of Livestock SA. Changes to CCA membership mean producers can join directly for free. Fill out the appropriate online form at www.livestocksa.org.au/pages/become-a-member/membership-form.php



Goat Producer Forum

How are your levies being invested? Are you across the latest information and regulations on animal health, welfare and biosecurity? Want to know what's happening in the goatmeat market with prices and trends?

All goat producers are invited to a forum to learn more about these topics.

When: Thursday, April 16, from 1-5pm,

Where: University of Adelaide
Roseworthy Campus, Veterinary Science
Tutorial Room (Room G05)

Parking: Free parking available in
Carpark 2 (look for P2 sign)

RSVP: Peter Lauterbach by
mrpeak@lm.net.au or 0427 743 026
by 14 April 2015

Industry site visits:

- > P&D Exports Roseworthy animal holding facility
- > Roseworthy campus tour

Speakers:

- > Rick Gates, president, Goat Industry Council of Australia
- > Julie Petty, Meat & Livestock Australia
- > Emma Rooke, Livestock Biosecurity Network