



Photo: Ian Turner

Producers' chance to raise freight and logistics issues

LIVESTOCK producers experiencing transport issues on trailer combinations for freight routes, first and last mile access and movement of machinery on public roads can provide feedback directly to the State Government.

The government – through Primary Industries & Regions SA and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure – is working with Primary Producers SA to improve efficiency of agricultural logistics as part of a new 90-day project.

Producers can complete a survey to highlight transport issues. The survey opened on Monday, November 3 and responses must be received by Friday, November 21. Once all the issues have been collated and reviewed, they will be split into those that can be fixed quickly and others that will require more work.

PPSA chairman Rob Kerin encouraged growers to take the time to fill-in the survey because it was a great opportunity to table local issues for action.

“Extension of current freight routes could create huge savings,” he said.

“For example, allowing double B-doubles north of Port Augusta would save unloading a triple road train on the side of the road and loading two B-doubles at Yorkeys Crossing. There would be cost-savings, improved occupational health and safety, and improved animal welfare in less stress and potential weight loss for cattle.”

Examples of specific issues already raised include:

- > Requirements for moving farm machinery between paddocks on country roads.
- > Different rules for towing farm equipment behind a ute versus a tractor.
- > Regulations for moving overmass and oversize equipment.
- > Streamlining farm vehicle registration.

The 90-day project ends on February 14, 2015, and a report and action plan will be developed to tackle issues not fixed during the timeframe.

> Have your say ...

The transport survey is online at www.ppsa.org.au/roadtransportsurvey. For a printed copy, contact Livestock SA.

Survey open for feedback on Pastoral Board

Pastoralists are encouraged to have their say on the future of the Pastoral Board through Livestock SA's survey.

The survey is available online or printed copies can be requested from the office. Producers can offer any feedback because all responses are anonymous.

Livestock SA gave an update on progress on the issue at the Pastoral Beef Field Day at Marree last month. The next step is to compile all the survey results, which will be presented at the next Northern Region meeting on December 5.

The survey was emailed to pastoralists on Livestock SA's database. Contact Livestock SA if you did not receive a survey or you are not a member.



Local issues key focus in October for Livestock SA

From the Chairman
RICHARD HALLIDAY



EVEN though spring has been less than exciting for producers, firm prices for both wool and meat and surplus stock augers well for the future and the price per kilogram for lamb is holding up well.

Livestock SA has been pleased with the community response to the abolishment of the Pastoral Board. There is a clear need for the pastoral industry be involved in the solution. There is still time for pastoralists to have input into Livestock SA's response so please contact Andrew Clarke and Colin Greenfield for more information.

There are still several issues we would like to see more action on, including the Emergency Services Levy. We continue to lobby for change on these steep increases. The angry feedback from members – many of whom are volunteers with the Country Fire Service – have continued to roll in during October and we are still communicating your disappointment on the increase to the State Government.

Another issue front and centre with the dry season is the cost of water. This is really impacting growers' ability to produce food and fibre, which we have flagged as a major issue to the State Government, particularly given its strategy in promoting premium food and fibre.

Finally, getting the upper hand in the fight against wild dogs is another key issue. The South Australian Wild Dog Action Group has developed a plan for wild dog control, at the request of the State Government. This plan has been with Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter for 12 weeks so we are looking forward to his response to progress the next phase on behalf of producers.

Just because you have a PIC doesn't mean you're a Livestock SA member!

Membership is free if you're a producer. Fill out a membership form available online or contact Livestock SA.

Theileriosis update

with Biosecurity SA Chief Veterinary Officer
ROGER PASKIN

The recent detection of clinical cases of benign theileriosis in the South East has gained a lot of attention so let's review the facts:

- > *Theileria* organisms are blood parasites carried by bush ticks.
- > Benign Theileriosis has been found in cattle on every major continent, generally causing little or no disease.
- > It is recognised as an endemic disease and most farmers with infected cattle are completely unaware of it.
- > When an animal is infected with *Theileria*, it generally does not become sick, it becomes immune. In this sense, theileriosis is self-vaccinating, living in immune animals at very low and usually undetectable levels.
- > However, when levels of ticks are raised following good rainfall, large numbers of parasites can infect non-immune animals. If these animals are physiologically stressed (usually heavily pregnant or lactating), overt disease may result.

- > This recently occurred in SA, where a very small number of heavily lactating animals showed clinical disease after infection.
- > Treating *Theileria* is problematic – there is no registered treatment available in Australia, and drugs used in treatment may cause residue problems.
- > Can we eradicate this organism? The short answer is no. The parasite usually survives at very low levels making it difficult to detect, and the bush tick has a wide range of hosts, including wildlife, making it difficult to prevent.
- > It is important to understand that for every hundreds of animals that become infected with theileriosis, very few get sick.

> For more information on what you can do, visit <http://bit.ly/1x03T7X>

Maximise competition for livestock by using up-to-date NVD

Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) is encouraging producers to use the most up-to-date version of the National Vendor Declaration (NVD).

The NVD underpins the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, Australia's red meat food safety guarantee to our domestic and international customers.

A number of processors have stated that from January 1, 2015, they will only accept the 2013 version of NVDs.

SCA President Ian McColl says if producers want to maximise competition for their livestock they must be using the latest version – the 2013 LPA NVDs – by January 1, 2015.

"For buyers and sellers of livestock the 2013 version contains the most up-to-

date commercial information," he said. "There have been a number of changes to the LPA NVD since the first version was issued in 2004. These changes have been made to ensure Australian products meet market requirements.

"Producers should check with their livestock buyer as to what version of the LPA NVD is required before consignment to maximise competition and returns for their livestock," he said.

> More information

Producers can order a new hard-copy LPA NVD booklet online, or purchase electronic LPA NVDs, at <http://lpa.ausmeat.com.au/> or call the LPA Helpdesk on 1800 683 111 to purchase hard copy LPA NVDs.