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ESL bill hikes anger members

LIVESTOCK SA has had an overwhelming response from producers unhappy with the State Government's increases to the Emergency Services Levy.

Reports of increases of 300 to 1200 percent have been received by Livestock SA, which has been in discussion with both the State Government and Opposition on the issue.

President Richard Halliday attended a Primary Producers SA council meeting in September to discuss the issue with Minister for Emergency Services Tony Piccolo.

"We put to the Minister that if the government is going to full cost recovery, it should look at how much money is raised and spent within and outside the Metropolitan Fire Service boundaries,"

he said. "PPSA believes this will show a huge discrepancy and that rural people are paying a large cross subsidisation to the metropolitan area of Adelaide.

"We highlighted the huge volunteer input that farmers and other rural people make towards the Country Fire Service, such as spending up to 30 days fighting this year's Bangor fire at their own expense, using their own firefighting equipment, and going to call outs for all sorts of emergencies.

"We are collating responses from growers across South Australia and will continue putting the case for rural exemptions to the government."

> Have your say on the ESL increase
08 8297 2299
admin@livestocksa.org.au

The plan will set out the overarching direction of the production, processing and live export sectors of Australia's beef, sheep meat and goat meat industries.

> This workshop will be held on November 3. Please check the Livestock SA website or call the office for more details.

Save the date

Livestock SA has been successful in lobbying the Red Meat Advisory Council to run a consultative workshop in South Australia for producers and industry stakeholders to contribute to development of the next Meat Industry Strategic Plan.

Congratulations Jack!

Livestock SA vice-president Jack England won the coveted Young Farmer of the Year title in the Kondinin Group and ABC Rural annual awards last month.



Jack, who farms his family property Shepherds Hill at Kingston, was one of three finalists in the Farmer of the Year awards, announced in Melbourne. He was also runner-up in the overall Australian Farmer of the Year category.

"Jack is an outstanding contributor to the industry, not only beef and sheep but also grain and agroforestry. His input and experiences combined with his passion and enthusiasm for the industry are valued and just what organisations such as Livestock SA like to see coming through its ranks," president Richard Halliday said.



Tough season and defeat of surveillance bill disappointing for producers in September

From the Chairman
RICHARD HALLIDAY



IT HAS been a pretty tough run season-wise for livestock production in the past month. Like many other areas, the upper South East is just been hanging on and in some parts, frost has done a lot of damage on lighter soils, reducing pasture growth.

Despite this, stock are in reasonable condition and lambs are getting to more saleable weights after a dry spring and slow pasture growth. As we head into summer and autumn, feeding and planning how to manage ewes and cows will be of great importance.

The new Livestock SA board held its

first meeting on September 18. I was re-elected as president, Jack England re-elected as vice-president and Alexander MacLachlan took over as treasurer.

Issues discussed included biosecurity with a presentation from chief veterinary officer Roger Paskin, South Australia's input into a national meat industry strategic plan, the natural resources water levy in the Western Mount Lofty Ranges, drought in the pastoral region, and transport.

In the past month, it has been disappointing that proposed legislation which would have made it illegal for animal rights activists to secretly film on farms was defeated in State Parliament.

The Surveillance Devices Bill was introduced by the State Labor Government and attracted fierce opposition from media outlets, workers' unions and animal protection groups.

Liberal MPs voted against the bill, which would have outlawed use of hidden cameras and microphones and punished those who filmed footage and media outlets which broadcast it.

Livestock SA lobbied all rural MPs asking for the bill to be supported but on this occasion, our pleas were not heeded. Despite this, we will continue to communicate to the government and wider community why we believe such laws are required.

Livestock SA believes that animals should be treated with dignity and respect. There is no excuse for mistreating animals and transparency is a must. However, the outcome of cases of trespass and subsequent publication of footage by activists is stressed farmers, stressed animals, and video clips that only provide selected images, which in no way depicts the majority of the industry.

Future of Pastoral Board uncertain in govt review

THE Pastoral Board, South Australian Goat Advisory Group and Animal Welfare Committee look likely to be abolished as part of the State Government's review of all boards and committee.

Board member Andrew Clarke, Allandale Station, via Oodnadatta, fears the Pastoral Board will be axed and is urging concerned producers to contact Livestock SA.

He says disbanding the Pastoral Board will leave a void for many important processes for pastoralists, such as remediating property management planning issues, the relevance of the Pastoral Land

Management Act and continued producer involvement in regulation.

"Pastoralists operate small businesses and we can't afford to be held back by inefficient decision-making as a result of the board's removal," he said. "Pastoral lease assessments are already three to four years behind so will the alternative to the board be better funded or is it expected to do more for less?"

Livestock SA has written to Premier Jay Weatherill outlining its concerns and asking that livestock producers be consulted and involved in developing a solution.

> More information ... Provide your feedback to Livestock SA, dcrabb@livestocksa.org.au, 08 8297 2299

Call for reduction in water prices

PRICES OF water delivered through SA Water's mains system has been one of Livestock SA's top 10 issues for action since the organisation started last year.

During September, Livestock SA called for changes to water pricing because rising costs are causing livestock producers to make decisions on their future in the industry.

"We outlined our case for lower water prices in response to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia's inquiry into pricing for drinking water and sewerage retail services," chief executive officer Deane Crabb said.

"Livestock SA believes there must be a differentiation in prices for stock water delivered by SA Water's infrastructure. At present, livestock producers are paying up to \$3.23 a kilolitre. We think the current price should be 62c/kL.

> View Water Reform Pricing Inquiry submissions at www.escosa.sa.gov.au/publications.aspx

Survey call

Livestock producers interested in providing feedback on hunting, including for pest animal control, can take part in a national and independent survey. The Australian Hunter and Landowner Survey is available at <http://surveymonkey.com/s/hunterlandowner>