



LIVESTOCK SA INC
Unit 5
780 South Road
GLANDORE SA 5037
08 8297 2299 (P)
08 8293 886 (F)
admin@livestocksa.org.au (E)
www.livestocksa.org.au (W)

MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERS

June 2014

Drought in the pastoral area

While it is pleasing that lobbying from Livestock SA led to the Commonwealth asking the State Government for a proposal for assistance, and that proposal has now been made, little still seems to be happening. There has been some rain in the pastoral area which has eased the situation for some, but generally the area east of the Stuart Highway and north of the Barrier Highway can still be considered in drought. Livestock SA has met twice with Minister Bignell who has indicated that the State Government is trying to work together with the Federal Government to get more money for drought assistance. "Buy-a-bale" has also been in touch about how it could help out. So far a few people have taken the offer up but it is a matter of getting the hay to producers.

The year ahead

With positive indications that funding will be provided for 2014/15, and the development of a long-term funding model, Livestock SA can now start planning for the coming year. We are very keen to hear from all South Australian sheep, beef cattle and goat producers on their issues of concern.

With the State election now out of the way Livestock SA will be working with the State Government and other MPs on the 10 election priorities that had been identified by livestock producers. We have already put considerable effort in obtaining drought support for South Australian pastoralists and funding for Livestock SA.

While the other eight issues are all priorities, work on reduction in the cost of water for livestock is the next on the list after drought. Livestock SA is keen to get from producers figures and case studies that can be put to the State Government, SA Water and ESCOSA. It is likely to be a long, hard battle and facts will be needed.

This is what we had previously said about the price of water –

2 Reduction in the cost of water for livestock

There needs to be a differentiation in water prices for water used from SA Water for livestock consumption. The current excessive price of water is beginning to lead to a reduction in livestock numbers in those areas reliant on SA Water.

Please provide us with details on what water is costing your business.

Regional meetings

These are continuing to be held across the State so that producers can hear firsthand about Livestock SA as well as allow producers to have input into how they want Livestock SA to operate and to raise the issues they want Livestock SA to tackle. Meetings are planned in the coming month at –

- **Karoonda** – 18 June Football Club 2 to 5 pm
- **Cleve** – 25 June Bowling Club 2 to 5 pm

President's Report May 2014 - Richard Halliday

In the past month, I have been involved in the following:

- 1 May - spoke at the Rural Media luncheon at the Adelaide Showgrounds.
- 9 May - first meeting with WoolTAG at Livestock SA. Issues under discussion included retention results for shearers and shed staff in South Australia, standard wording across all States for description of occupations, opportunities within the wool industry for employment, cost of wool-classer education across Australia, and changes in TAFE (Bob Reid retiring June 2014 and wool training moving to Gilles Plain TAFE).
- 21 May - Meeting with Minister Bignell around the future funding of Livestock SA. As the Minister was supportive, we are now working through this process. Discussions to come with SASAG and SACAG on the best way forward.
- 21 May - Producer forum at Mt Pleasant. A meeting attended by about 40 producers. Catherine Mills gave her NRM presentation and we had a good session talking about Livestock SA.
- 27 May - National Wild Dog Action Plan meetings with Minister Hunter and opposition representative Michelle Lensink. South Australia has signed off on the Plan.
- 27 May - Cattle Council meeting at Hahndorf. Spoke to the Board on how Livestock SA will work and they reminded me that all Livestock SA members are entitled to sign up for free by going to the CCA site.
- 29 May - attended the South Australian Beef Forum. This was a joint Cattle Council, MLA and Livestock SA function and was a very good day with over 110 attending. I spoke on Livestock SA along with many other speakers on differing topics within the beef industry. Penny Schulz should be congratulated on her role as facilitator a job well done.

Livestock SA featured in the "Viewpoint" in the *Stock Journal* on 29 May – did you see this and what were your comments on this please?

Livestock SA membership now up to 725 – please check that your neighbour has joined.

There was a general mailout to all members with details on LambEX 2014. Have you registered to attend? Livestock SA is urging all sheep producers to attend. We will have a stand at LambEX and hope to catch up with as many members as possible.

Direct membership of Cattle Council

It is now possible for individual cattle producers to join as a member of the Cattle Council of Australia. Membership rights allow producers to have direct input into issues of concern to them as cattle producers, and to become involved in Cattle Council activities. Membership is free to those producers in South Australia who are members of Livestock SA. For more details, go to <http://www.cattlecouncil.com.au>.

Dates for your diary

- LambEx 2014 – 9 to 11 July Adelaide Showgrounds
- Livestock SA AGM– 29 August Roseworthy

Please encourage your fellow livestock producers to join Livestock SA. Also please check out the new website and give your opinion (there is a communications and issues survey for feedback). And for more details on anything mentioned in this update, please contact Deane Crabb 8297 2299