



Unit 5, 780 South Road  
GLANDORE SA 5037  
08 8297 2299 (P)  
08 8293 8886 (F)  
[admin@livestocksa.org.au](mailto:admin@livestocksa.org.au) (E)  
[www.livestocksa.org.au](http://www.livestocksa.org.au) (W)

5 February 2016

Janet Brook  
Presiding Member  
South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board  
PO BOX 78  
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700  
(email: [saaridlands@sa.gov.au](mailto:saaridlands@sa.gov.au))

Dear Janet

Livestock SA is opposed to the proposed increase in the NRM levies by NRM Boards throughout the State and all Boards are urged to ask for a freeze on any increases.

Whilst it is appreciated that the levies for the pastoral region are relatively low compared to the rest of the State Livestock SA is concerned about the financial impost on pastoral properties. As members of the NRM Board would be aware many of these have been under financial duress in recent times due to operating almost continually in drought conditions for several years. The proposed levies need to take into account the financial realities of the region.

Livestock SA congratulates the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board and its staff on the efforts it has made in promoting practices and supporting activities leading to sustainability and improved productivity. However in these difficult times constraints on expenditure are necessary.

In relation to changing the method of rating, Livestock SA supports in principle the concept that larger properties pay more, but it must be consistent across all lease types: it should apply to both pastoral (regardless of lease type if tourism/conservation lease) and perpetual lease. There should be consultation with the Pastoral Board to establish tiers more equitable – there is a significant difference in a 100,000 hectare property's production potential compared to one that is four or five times that size.

Out of councils areas have been difficult to administer levies to and continue to be. The State Government needs to consider rolling applicable levies into one administered fee, 'bundling' pastoral rates, NRM levies, and Dog Fence Board rates. It is likely there will be another levy imposed by the Outback Communities Authority of similar or greater scale than the NRM levy. The community needs clarity and a whole-of-government approach to future administration of pastoral lands and the associated funding structures.

Producers continue to question what benefits they will get from paying increased levies, or indeed from their current levies. There needs to be a benefit cost analysis on current NRM programs and projects and as a result of this analysis, some programs and projects will need to either be cancelled or quickly finished. Producers continually ask what percentage of NRM income is actually spent on 'on ground projects' and how much is spent on administration.

Livestock SA, as a member of Primary Producers SA, supports the call for an independent review of the water management costs (see attached media release). Primary Producers SA has also made comments about NRM Boards' revised business plans which Livestock SA endorses. The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board is asked to support this call for an independent review.

To assist Livestock SA in preparing these comments, comments were received from members in the region. CEO Deane Crabb also appreciated the opportunity to meet with representatives from the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board and staff on 20 January.

To date Livestock SA has had a good working relationship with the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board, particularly on drought funding for water infrastructure grants and wild dog control, and we would like this to continue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Power', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Power  
**President**