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Mr Richard Trethewey
Presiding Member
Kangaroo Island NRM Board
PO Box 39
KINGSCOTE KI 5223
(Email: kinrc@sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Trethewey

Livestock SA is opposed to the proposed increase in the NRM levies by NRM Boards throughout the State. Whilst it is appreciated that the Kangaroo Island levies are relatively low compared to many others in the State we are concerned about the financial impost on farming enterprises. As members of the NRM Board would be aware agriculture has been under financial duress in recent times due to late opening rains and a lack of a spring finish, putting a significant strain on livestock enterprises. The proposed levies need to take into account the financial realities of farming cash-flows.

Livestock SA congratulates the Kangaroo Island NRM Board on the efforts it has made in promoting agricultural practices on the island and supporting activities leading to improved productivity. However in these difficult times constraints on expenditure are necessary.

Rather than an increase, given the seasonal conditions, the NRM Board needs to ask for a freeze on any increases at least until conditions improve. It is extremely callous to even be considering any increases at this time.

Producers are also questioning 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. The Board needs to get back to its core business and assist a sustainable productive agriculture sector.

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 Board's revised business plans which Livestock SA endorses. We ask that your Board support this call for an independent review.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Power
President