



Producers need more support on key issues

From the president

With
GEOFF POWER



Wild dogs, South East drains and the lack of support for agriculture in the State Budget have dominated Livestock SA's advocacy efforts during July.

Wild dogs

Livestock SA called on the State Government to reinstate funding for a wild dog trapper in northern South Australia to ensure that wild dogs do not continue to move further south and become a problem in peri-urban areas.

Funding for the state's only dog trapper ran out in April when a Federal Government drought support program ended, which has meant SA currently has no wild dog trapper.

Livestock SA believes \$300,000 would mean wild dog control could be undertaken at a level that would protect the agricultural industry and reduce the threat facing peri-urban areas.

With good rain in the north of the state, it is concerning that wild dog numbers could continue to grow – both outside and inside the dog fence.

Without a wild dog trapper, the chances of wild dogs getting down to peri-urban

areas of SA are higher. If wild dogs were in the Mount Lofty Ranges, it is possible they would cause havoc in residential areas, as they have in similar areas of Queensland.

At a forum at Port Augusta two years ago, members agreed two doggers were needed to tackle the problem. One dogger would cost \$150,000 and an immediate commitment of that amount would at least mean the current trapper could be re-employed while another is hired.

SE drains

Livestock SA called on the State Government to provide more funding for repair and maintenance of the South East drains.

The lack of commitment in the State Budget in July leaves the future effective operation of the network in limbo. The additional funds required for the drains' ongoing upkeep had not been addressed.

While the budget included an allocation of \$2.293 million for the South East Water Conservation & Drainage Board – which has previously been committed by Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter – we want to know how much of that will be used for drains maintenance.

The drains will deteriorate and all that hard work and effort of previous years will be lost if there is no commitment.

South East livestock producers really need to see some leadership and commitment from the State Government to work with them to achieve the common goal of an effective and efficient drains network supporting an extremely productive area of our state – a significant contributor to the state's economy.

Funding issues

The budget missed a number of issues important to producers such as funding for PIRSA, drought and a number of regional issues while imposing higher levies for no benefit to producers.

There were no announcements or recognition for agriculture as part of the State Budget at all. There was nothing for the new One Biosecurity program nor drought relief and recovery – no strategy, no trigger points for funding support and no money to help

Yorkey's Crossing at Port Augusta needs urgent further funding in addition to the \$350,000 announced some time before the budget. As it stands, if there is an accident or incident on the bridge that provides a route to Western Australia and Northern Territory and it is raining, Yorkey's Crossing becomes impassable, which means an important link between the three states is broken.



Board nominees announced for 2016 election

Livestock SA members will be able to vote on who represents them as board members with eight producers responding during the call for nominations.

There are five two-year positions up for election this year. Successful candidates will be announced at Livestock SA's annual general meeting on Friday, September 16, at Hahndorf, held in conjunction with the inaugural SA Cattle Producers Forum.

All current board members renominated and there were three nominations from other Livestock SA members including:

- > Andrew Clarke, Pastoral
- > Gillian Fennell, Pastoral (new)
- > Tom Hampton, Adelaide Hills (new)
- > Jamie Heinrich, Kangaroo Island (new)
- > Joe Keynes, Barossa
- > Bill Nosworthy, Eyre Peninsula
- > Steve Radeski, Adelaide Hills
- > Penny Schulz, Upper South East

Details: Voting information is included with this newsletter. For more information, contact returning officer Deane Crabb, 08 8297 2299.

Animal welfare focus for Southern Region AGM



Pictured at the Southern Region Dinner and AGM are Livestock SA's Southern Region chairman Peter Stock, board member Penny Schulz and secretary Tom Dawkins (right) with guest speaker The Hon Dr Denis Napthine.

The Livestock SA Southern Region Dinner and AGM was held in late July at Mount Gambier, featuring special guest speaker The Hon Dr Denis Napthine.

Livestock SA Southern Region representatives - chairman Peter Stock and secretary Tom Dawkins - were re-elected and provided a report to the 60 attendees present on 2015-16 and progress on motions at previous AGMs.

Topical issues raised included wild deer, NRM levies, government red tape, multiple land uses, and the status of SA Sheep and Cattle Advisory Group levies.

The following motion was supported: "That Minister Bignell is requested to approve the increased sheep and cattle industry contribution rates in line with recommendations from Livestock SA and release SASAG and SACAG funds as soon as possible." The motion was moved by Don Pegler, Kongorong, seconded by Andrew Ogilvie, Biscuit Flat, and was passed with the unanimous support of the meeting.

Details: The Southern Region Report is online at www.livestocksa.org.au/AGM

For more information, contact: Peter Stock, 0427 817 326 and Tom Dawkins, 0402 406 965

Livestock SA Update and AGM and SA Cattle Producers Forum

Friday, September 16, 2016
The Carlton Club, 145 Balhannah Road, Hahndorf
Starting at 10am

Includes the launch of the **NEW BRANDS APP...**
a one-stop shop for all information on cattle brands and earmark IDs in SA!

Featuring guest speakers:



Richard Norton
Managing Director,
Meat & Livestock Australia

- > **Ian Ware,**
Farm technology and internet connectivity, APA Sound
- > **Jessira Perovic,**
Eating Quality Data Analytics, Meat & Livestock Australia
- > **Chas Cini,**
Updating members on the Pastoral Award, MERS
- > **John Williams,**
JS Davies Research Centre
- > **Stephen Lee,**
SA Cattle Industry Blueprint

More information
www.livestocksa.org.au/AGM

