



Livestock SA opens nominations for board

South Australian livestock producers are being encouraged to consider standing for nomination to the Livestock SA board.

There are five, two-year positions up for election this year which are currently held by Andrew Clarke, Joe Keynes, Bill Nosworthy, Steve Radeski and Penny Schulz.

Continuing members include president Geoff Power, Jack England, Richard Halliday, Allan Piggott and Andy Withers.

To nominate, producers must be a member of Livestock SA and must submit a nomination form on or before the closing date of Wednesday, July 27.

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.

Livestock SA chief executive officer Andrew Curtis said the commitment

required by board members included attendance at quarterly board meetings in Adelaide and being available for phone teleconferences as needed.

"The board provides strategic direction for Livestock SA including policy decisions through consultation with livestock producers. Being part of Livestock SA is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to your industry's future," Mr Curtis said.

"If more nominations are received than positions available, Livestock SA members will be able to vote by postal ballot. More information on the need for a vote will be available once nominations have been received."

Nomination forms are available at www.livestocksa.org.au or by contacting the Livestock SA office.

Forms must be returned to Livestock SA by either:

- > Email: admin@livestocksa.org.au
- > Fax: 08 8293 8886
- > Post: Unit 5, 780 South Road, Glandore SA 5037



Southern Region dinner and AGM set for July 27

Former Victorian premier and rural veterinarian the Hon Dr Denis Napthine (pictured) will be guest speaker at the Livestock SA Southern Region Dinner and AGM later this month.

Dr Napthine, who is based at Port Fairy and represented south-west Victoria for more than 25 years, will share his insights on the politics of animal welfare.

Before the AGM and dinner, a combined workshop for the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint and the Southern Australian Meat Research Council will be held to update producers on progress and receive feedback.

Both events will be held at The Barn at Mount Gambier on Wednesday, July 27. The workshop starts at 4pm, with the dinner and AGM event starting with drinks from 6pm and the meal from 7pm.

Details: More information www.livestocksa.org.au – RSVP to the AGM by July 22 to Southern Region secretary Tom Dawkins, 0402 406 965 or tomdawkins83@gmail.com

Sheep grazier alert

The Bureau of Meteorology is seeking feedback on use of the Sheep Graziers' Alert as part of its forecasting system.

The current alert provides a warning of times when the risk of lamb and sheep losses is elevated through the onset of cold conditions. BOM is investigating developing a 'Cold Spell Service' that works like its BOM Heatwave Service, which raises warnings of extended periods of hot conditions likely to impact human health. The proposed service could provide a longer lead warning for cold conditions with potential to cause stock losses. BOM is seeking sheep producers to provide dates for cold snaps from recent winters where losses occurred, or would have occurred had sheep not been moved to more sheltered paddocks, so they can be cross-checked with the new Cold Spell Service.

> To provide feedback, contact Livestock SA 08 8297 2299



Last bale leaves Pinery fire recovery hay depot

Farmers from South Australia and Victoria have joined together to donate 1887 hay bales to producers affected by November's Pinery bushfire.

In all, 59 producers were assisted with donations coming in from the South East, Yorke Peninsula, Lower Lakes, Mid North, Eyre Peninsula and Fleurieu Peninsula as well as north-east Victoria. Donors generously gave:

- > 380 large square bales of barley straw
- > 30 large rounds of clover hay
- > 725 large rounds and squares and small squares of meadow hay
- > 587 large rounds and squares and small squares of oaten hay
- > 30 large rounds of triticale hay

> 135 large rounds and squares of wheaten hay

This included 400 bales from the PIRSA Flaxley Research Station and a donation of \$3000 from north-east Victorian growers to buy hay locally to donate. All bales donated were kept at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus, which donated land to set-up the depot.

Livestock SA coordinated the relief effort. President Geoff Power says it was great to see producers joining together to help their fire-affected counterparts.

"Special thanks goes to the University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus for their great involvement in not only providing a site for the depot but their staff, some of who work on weekends to assist, and machinery to load and unload trucks."



University of Adelaide Roseworthy farm manager John Matheson, Martindale Holdings' Grant Jarvis, Roseworthy, Livestock SA's John Sharp and Tarlee pheasant farmer Alan Harris.

Livestock SA at work on NRM, drought loans

From the president

With
GEOFF POWER



Natural resource management, concessional loans, electoral boundaries and competition in the beef industry are four of the raft of issues Livestock SA has been working on in June.

NRM

We have been working with Primary Producers SA to fight the proposed increases to NRM levies, flagged last year by NRM Boards in each region. It looks as though the proposed increases will go ahead which is frustrating for us and all producers.

We will continue fighting these increases as we believe the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has already raised enough money without further slugging regional areas. To help us understand the full scale of the increases across regions, producers are encouraged to contact Livestock SA once they get their rates notice and let us know how much the levy has increased.

Concessional loans

Livestock SA welcomed Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce's announcement that a re-elected Coalition would create

a new national body to administer the Commonwealth's concessional loans programs. The current situation where concessional loans and the drought recovery loans are administered by each state is unsatisfactory.

In South Australia, we have the Federal Government saying 'these loans are available, let's get them out there' and it would seem that the State Government has strict guidelines which makes it nearly impossible for the loans to be accessed. By creating a national body to administer the loans the process should be accelerated. Drought is a national issue so it makes sense that the Federal Government take control.

Now that there has been some rain in the South East, producers there should be able to access the drought recovery loans to enable them to get back into production. These loans are not a gift, they have to be paid back so we are not asking for something for nothing. It's a matter of getting good young producers and people caught in a difficult situation out of it so they can make their businesses profitable again.

Boundary changes

Northern Region chairman Colin Greenfield represented Livestock SA at the South Australian Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission at Port Augusta on June 27. We believe the proposal to make Port Pirie the regional centre of the electoral district covering the northern

outback areas is nonsense. It would predominantly affect Stuart, Giles and Frome and means the loss of one entire seat, which would mean one less voice for the pastoral region and reduced representation.

The pastoral region has a critical alliance with Port Augusta as its major service centre. It is where the RFDS, School of the Air, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's Outback Roads division, Outback Community Authority, the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board and the northern arm of the Pastoral Board are all based.

Beef competitiveness

Livestock SA was represented by board member Andy Withers at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission hearing on beef sector competitiveness at Mount Gambier on June 20. Livestock SA collated feedback from producers about concerns on fat scores, inconsistencies in yields and weights and delays in getting reports on these. Livestock SA called for increased transparency to give producers confidence that scales and measures are accurate and are reported correctly. Other producers in the north of SA raised a lack of competition, saying that in other states there were more options and that market forces worked better. Some producers would like there to be an ombudsman or at least a strong watch dog. The interest of the ACCC in this regard is very welcome.