

SAVE THE DATE
Livestock SA AGM & SA Cattle Producers Forum
 Friday, September 16, 2016
 at Hahndorf. More details next month!

Strong and clear voice critical for advocacy

By
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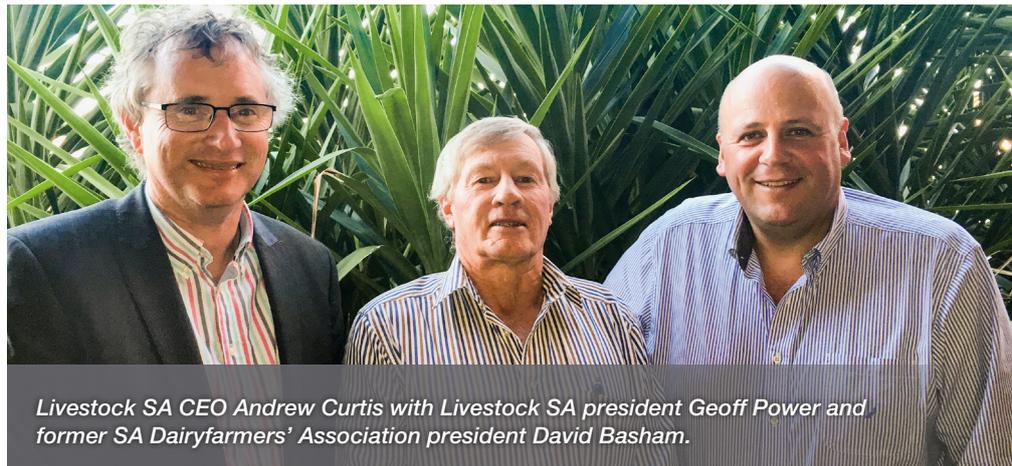


It has been just more than one month since I took on the role as joint CEO of Livestock SA and the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association.

This is a first for both advocacy groups in South Australia and recognises the similar issues facing livestock and dairy farmers and the synergies that can be obtained in advocating on behalf of both industries. It also makes sense from an economic point of view because we are still talking about livestock – be it dairy, beef, sheep and wool or goats.

It has been a challenging start, given the issues in the dairy industry at present, and as meat and wool producers, we should acknowledge that our colleagues in the dairy industry are doing it really tough.

It demonstrates why it is critical that the industry has a strong and clear voice in engaging with a whole range of stakeholders across a whole range of issues, from market access to animal welfare. While government is an important stakeholder, it is not the only one, and it is important for all stakeholders to recognise the critical role the livestock industries play both inside and outside urban areas.



Livestock SA CEO Andrew Curtis with Livestock SA president Geoff Power and former SA Dairyfarmers' Association president David Basham.

My own background in the livestock and dairy industries is many and varied. I've spent 21 years with Primary Industries and Regions SA in a range of industry development roles including the fibre, meat, agricultural workforce and landcare sectors.

My most recent role was as senior industry adviser, where I worked to initiate and support agribusiness development in SA. This included being the link between different stakeholders and government on initiating, designing or assessing complex industry development projects.

I have also spent six years as program manager of PIRSA's workforce and infrastructure development and seven years as PIRSA's principal officer for the fibre and meat industries. Prior to

PIRSA, I worked as a dairy extension officer for Agriculture Victoria, providing management and technical advice and facilitation support to farm production groups in south west Victoria.

As a teenager, I spent time at a family property at Kerang, Victoria, which was the impetus to study agricultural science at university. I was also a jackaroo at Dunkeld, Vic, on a 3200ha Merino sheep and cattle property.

So I've seen the industry from a variety of angles and looking forward to working with the board, the Northern and Southern Regions and individual members on the raft of issues and opportunities before us.

ACCC market study to meet in Mount Gambier

The ACCC is inviting people involved with cattle and beef markets to participate in a forum at Mount Gambier.

The forum is part of the ACCC's recently announced market study into the cattle and beef industry. The study's aims are two-fold – to investigate competition and transparency in the supply chain, and consider whether there are impediments to competition and

efficiency at various stages of the beef supply chain.

The forum will enable ACCC Commissioners to hear directly from farmers and other people in the cattle and beef industry about competition and fair trading issues that concern them.

Livestock SA consulted with members and made a submission to the ACCC's call for input. The SA forum will be held

on Monday, June 20, from 11.30am-2pm at the Mount Gambier RSL, 16 Sturt Street, Mount Gambier.

To register, visit www.accc.gov.au/cattlestudy. To view Livestock SA's submission, visit www.livestocksa.org.au/pages/policy-and-surveys/submissions.php



All aboard the LambEx-press

SOUTH Australian producers and industry providers will get the chance to head to Australia's premier lamb industry event, LambEx 2016, when it comes to Albury, New South Wales, on August 10-12, with two bus trips set to make the trip across the border.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Sheep Connect SA, Pinkerton Palm Hamlyn & Steen, Spence Dix & Co and the SA Sheep Industry Fund, two busloads of producers and industry providers will join in the action and listen to well-known speakers including Sysco Corporation's Neil Doherty, from the United States, New Zealand Merino's Dave Maslen, and NSW Farmer of the Year Ed Fagan.

Three partner organisations, the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint, Solly Business Services and Livestock SA have also been key in providing organisational support for the bus tours.

SA Sheep Industry Blueprint Manager Stephen Lee, who has helped to coordinate the two SA buses, said he

wanted to ensure SA farmers had the chance to participate, particularly after the success of the 2014 Adelaide event.

"The sponsorship provides tremendous value to producers who can travel to LambEx, have twin share accommodation and registration, all for the cost of LambEx registration," he said.

Joint coordinator Ken Solly, Solly Business Services, Naracoorte, said LambEx 2014 was hugely successful with more than 900 delegates and 70 exhibitors.

"While the event is being held in Albury this year we still wanted SA producers and industry providers to have the opportunity to experience, and attend the event," he said. "Thanks



to the major sponsors and partner organisations, particularly Sheep Connect SA, we have been able to put a package together, to provide those in the SA lamb industry with an affordable option to attend LambEx."

A bus will depart Naracoorte, and another from Nuriootpa on Wednesday morning, August 10, returning to their original departure points on Friday night, August 12.

Details: Bus information – Stephen Lee, stephen.lee@adelaide.edu.au and 0421 570 630, bus registration – Jen Taylor, admin@livestocksa.org.au and 08 8297 2299. For event information, visit www.lambex.com.au

In short ...

First Ministers' forum

Livestock SA participated in the First Ministers Forum with South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill and Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles last month in Adelaide. The meeting was called to cement ties between NT and SA and find areas to work together, especially with Shandong Province in China to enhance business and create jobs. Livestock SA pushed for Yorkeys Crossing to be upgraded with a pod established and road train triples to be allowed to Dublin. Some extra funding is required to make this happen and is being pursued with both governments. Livestock SA also raised the harvesting of feral animals and the restrictions landholders are under regarding fencing off holding areas. This was noted and a meeting is being arranged with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to address the restrictions. The forum decided to establish a working group to improve the safe transport of livestock between the Northern Territory and South Australia comprising industry and departmental representatives. Both leaders agreed to pursue a range of regulatory improvements, and to lobby Canberra to remove the backpackers' tax to support primary producing businesses.

Merino Challenge

More than 140 students from across Australia were introduced to the wool industry via the National Merino Challenge (NMC) in 2016. Now in its fourth year and the first outside its pilot phase, the NMC has educated more than 360 secondary and tertiary students about the basics of the wool industry. The aim of the NMC is to introduce students to the career opportunities within the sheep and wool industries and to offer basic skills surrounding sheep management and appraisal using both traditional and modern methods. Participants from SA included the University of Adelaide in the tertiary division and Burra Community School and Cummins Area School in the secondary division.

YP Small Business Forum

A second forum for small business owners and farmers, 'Employing staff: What you need to know' is being planned by the Department of State Development. It will be held at Central Yorke Football Club in Maitland on Monday, June 20, from 5.15pm to 8.30pm and is free. Hear about awards, minimum wages, superannuation obligations

and changes, payroll/tax requirements, lodging BAS, payslips, timebooks and record keeping. Keynote speakers are from the Office of the Small Business Commissioner, Australian Tax Office, Fair Work Ombudsman, SafeWork SA and Return to Work SA. Registrations are essential on 1300 742 414 or www.surveymonkey.com/r/YorkeForum

Golden stencil competition

Congratulations to Tess Riley, Rhodes Wool, for representing South Australia at the 2016 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition. Tess is the first competitor from SA in the competition, which has been running for five years. It is held as part of the Sydney Royal Easter Show and brings together the best 2015 graduate wool classers from across Australia to compete for the 'Golden Stencil'. Tess completed her Certificate 4 in wool classing in semester 1, 2015, and was nominated by TafeSA woolclassing lecturer Colin Loffler. This year, 10 competitors from NSW, Victoria and SA were challenged to a series of tasks that reflect industry skills and demonstrate their training.