



Annual Report – 2014-15

For Livestock SA, its first year in 2013-14 was all about establishing as a new farm advocacy group for South Australian sheep, beef cattle and goat producers, setting policy, signing up members and representing their views to government, the community and other industry groups and businesses.

The second year has allowed Livestock SA to consolidate its structure and enhance its reputation as the organisation representing the State's livestock producers.

Livestock SA ... In Action

The following list shows how the breadth of issues Livestock SA has covered in its second year.

- **Drought in the pastoral areas.** Livestock SA received funding from the State Government for water infrastructure grants and wild dog control. It is believed to be the first time that a state farming organisation anywhere in Australia has been given the responsibility to administer a drought support scheme.
- **First Annual General Meeting.** Livestock SA's first AGM and Board member election was held on Friday, August 29, 2014. Seven nominations were received for five positions on the Livestock SA Board. About 25% of members voted in the subsequent election with four new Board members elected. The AGM, plus a tour of the new facilities at the Roseworthy campus and a SA Sheepmeat Industry Forum, attracted nearly 100 people.
- **Livestock SA membership.** Livestock SA has nearly doubled its membership in 12 months, from 1156 at the end of June 2014 to 2261 on June 30, 2015.
- **LambEx in Adelaide.** Livestock SA presented a professional and credible display at the successful LambEx 2014 in July. Livestock SA partnered with Sheepmeat Council of Australia, WoolProducers Australia, Livestock Biosecurity Network and the National and State Wild Dog Co-ordinators to engage with producers at the event.
- **Meat Industry Strategic Planning Workshop.** Initially, the national Red Meat Advisory Council had decided not to host a South Australian workshop as part of its producer engagement campaign. However, after lobbying by Livestock SA, a workshop was held at Hahndorf on November 3 where 51 producers and industry stakeholders attended. It was the highest attendance of the 12 regional workshops in Australia.
- **Bushfire support.** In early 2015, the Livestock SA office was inundated with calls for assistance from producers affected by the Kersbrook and Sampson Flat bushfires. Through social media, there were many donations of fodder to help those in need. Livestock SA member John Mundy, Forreston, offered to be the Livestock SA coordinator on the ground and became involved with the fodder depot established at the Kersbrook Oval.
- **Clearing up NVD confusion.** To clarify requirements around National Vendor Declarations, Livestock SA prepared an email distribution to members titled '*Confused by NVD requirements?*' The email was sent to

1353 online subscribers (at that time). The email was opened 2355 times, meaning people went back to it more than once and forwarded it on to other producers. The information was also promoted in Livestock SA's hard copy newsletter and on its website.

- **Livestock SA communication.** Livestock SA started contributing a monthly column to *Stock Journal's* livestock section in January. This was initiated by Livestock SA's South East region and has proven a successful initiative, with both Livestock SA members and other industry participants contributing their views on topical issues. Livestock SA also began promoting itself to a new demographic on social media, launching accounts on Facebook and Twitter. This is in addition to continued updates through an online and hard copy newsletter and maintenance of the Livestock SA website to keep producers informed.
- **Pastoral Board retained.** Despite uncertainty last year about its future, legislation has been passed in State Parliament to retain the Pastoral Board. Members of Livestock SA's Northern Region have been developing changes required to make the Board a more effective, collaborative and communicative body and a Livestock SA delegation met with Pastoral Board representatives on June 18 to continue discussions.
- **Livestock SA recognised in legislation.** With the passage of the *Statutes Amendment (Boards and Committees—Abolition and Reform) Bill 2015* through State Parliament, Livestock SA is officially recognised in legislation as providing representation on both the Pastoral and Dog Fence Boards under the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* and *Dog Fence Act 1946* respectively.

Livestock SA ... Producer Priorities

Based on feedback from members, Livestock SA developed a list of its 10 priority issues which were promoted during the 2014 State Election campaign. Work on these issues has continued in 2014-15.

1 Drought support for South Australian pastoralists and graziers

Lobbying by Livestock SA led to recognition of the drought in the Pastoral region and the State Government deciding to provide \$275,000 for water infrastructure grants and wild dog control. The Commonwealth Government also provided \$375,000 in support. Livestock SA administered the program in which 17 applications for grants were approved. Feedback was positive from pastoralists who received these funds.

In relation to wild dog control, funding was used to assist and complement work already underway by the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board. Funds are being used for volunteer shooters (from the Sporting Shooters Association SA and the Australian Deer Association), subsidised manufactured baits, trapper training workshops, and a professional dog trapper.

2 Reduction in the cost of water for livestock

A submission was made to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia Inquiry into Drinking Water and Sewerage Retail Services Pricing Reform. This argued there must be a differentiation in prices for water used from SA Water for livestock consumption and that if water prices continue to be artificially increased, an adjustment package will be needed for livestock producers reliant on SA Water's supply. To assist with this submission, examples on the cost of water were provided by several livestock producers. Livestock SA continues to lobby for a reduction.

3 Development of South Australia's live export trade

Livestock SA lobbied the Commonwealth Minister for Finance urging that cost recovery arrangements be deferred until the live export industry had time to recover and consolidate. Comments were also made to the Live Export Task Force examining the effectiveness of ESCAS (Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System) pointing out that it is an imposition and makes it hard for Australia to compete internationally. The Commonwealth Government has since deferred the cost recovery arrangements, foreshadowing that it will

“work closely with stakeholders during 2014-15 to streamline and promote efficiency across all cost recovery arrangements”.

4 More support for PIRSA, SARDI and Biosecurity SA

Livestock SA wrote to the Premier asking for more funding for Biosecurity SA. The Premier replied indicating this will be considered by PIRSA for the 2015-16 State Budget. However, there was no increase and Livestock SA publicly criticised the decision.

5 Review of the Pastoral Board and its activities

Livestock SA wrote to the Premier expressing concern at the proposal that the Pastoral Board be abolished, and asked for pastoralists to be consulted and involved in the development of any replacement. Livestock SA members in the pastoral region were extensively consulted by Livestock SA. At the Livestock SA Northern Region meeting at Port Augusta on December 5, 2014, it was decided the board should be retained.

6 A more efficient transport system to allow for efficient volume movement of livestock

Livestock SA was involved as a member of Primary Producers SA in a 90-day transport project, in conjunction with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and Primary Industries and Regions SA. In total, 680 farmers, carriers and contractors provided valuable information on transport and machinery movement issues through a survey, conducted by PPSA. Information generated helped PPSA work with DPTI and PIRSA on transport reforms, which will save the industry money and streamline heavy vehicle and machinery movement. Progressing this feedback into actions has provided a great opportunity for industry and government to work together to create efficiencies and real solutions that will benefit the agriculture industry and the entire State.

7 Balancing agriculture with the environment and community

Livestock SA has continued its involvement with the PPSA Natural Resources Management Committee. However at the request of members, Livestock SA became directly involved in various NRM issues such as:

- Unconventional fracking in the South East. David Smith represented Livestock SA at the Beach Energy South East Energy and Industry Roundtable and has since led a fact-finding tour to the United States. Livestock SA has also made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.
- Western Mount Lofty Ranges NRM water levy. On behalf of members in this region, Livestock SA made a strong case against the introduction of the levy and continues to advocate to the NRM Board and government that the levy is unfair and should not be introduced.

8 Maintaining and recognising the value of the Dog Fence

In addition to the wild dog control measures supported through drought funding, Livestock SA has been involved with the launch of the National Wild Dog Action Plan. Livestock SA is also involved with the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group with Geoff Power as chair. This group has reported to Minister for the Environment Ian Hunter.

9 Encouragement for the next generation of primary producers

In 2014-15, Livestock SA has supported promotion of the Cattle Council of Australia Rising Champions competition, arranged sponsorship of toolboxes for newly-trained shearers, and acknowledged Livestock SA's Vice-President Jack England's success as the Kondinin Group ABC Rural Young Farmer of the Year. Further work on this priority will continue in 2015-16.

10 Funding for Livestock SA

For the first two years, annual funding for Livestock SA has been obtained from the SA Sheep and Cattle Industry Funds. Livestock SA would like to acknowledge and thank the SA Sheep and Cattle Advisory Groups for this support. An application for three years' funding has been submitted and an outcome is expected shortly.

Livestock SA ... Board and Staff

At the first AGM, four new Board members Andrew Clarke, Joe Keynes, Bill Nosworthy and Steve Radeski were elected. Retiring members Jean Evans, Andrew Ogilvie and Mark Turnbull were thanked for their efforts in establishing Livestock SA and contributing to its early policy development.

While Richard Halliday was re-elected as President, he then stepped down when he became National President of WoolProducers Australia, which is required under its constitution. Richard was thanked for guiding Livestock SA through its establishment and for giving it a solid foundation.

Livestock SA continues to be a member of the peak national bodies Cattle Council of Australia, Goat Industry Council of Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia, WoolProducers Australia, and the South East Australian Livestock Exporters Association. Livestock SA is also a member of the peak state body Primary Producers SA.

To help with the work load and to provide new skills, the office has expanded. Chief Executive Officer Deane Crabb, Business Manager Jen Taylor and Receptionist Kelly Lill have been joined by Emma Rooke, South Australia's Livestock Biosecurity Network Officer, and John Sharp, who has worked on the Far North Water Infrastructure Grant Scheme and other projects. In addition, AgCommunicators' Deanna Lush was contracted to help with Livestock SA's communication and other project advice.

All Board members, staff and members of Livestock SA are thanked for their involvement over the past year.

The Year Ahead

Following a forum in February, it has been decided that there is the need for development of a South Australian Sheep Industry Blueprint. Funding has been obtained and a Blueprint Working Group, chaired by Moorlands producer Allan Piggott, established to develop and implement the strategic plan. A manager will be appointed to run this process.

Livestock SA will continue work on its priority issues and liaison with government and industry stakeholders on policy and submissions. There are a number of short-term issues that require Livestock SA involvement. Once three-year funding is secured, a policy officer will be employed as the work load expands.

Livestock SA is the opportunity for all South Australian livestock producers to have their say on the people and policies that best represent them. Livestock SA's vision is for a strong, viable, productive and profitable livestock sector in South Australia which is valued by the community and all levels of government.

Producers are encouraged to contact Livestock SA with any concerns or issues they would like to raise – either through the head office in Adelaide or via Board members and regional representatives throughout the state.

Geoff Power

Livestock SA President

28 August 2015