



By GEOFF POWER,
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Livestock SA is the peak organisation representing sheep, beef cattle and goat producers in South Australia.

Earlier this year Livestock SA and the South Australian Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG) launched the South Australian Sheep Industry Blueprint, a strategy aimed at driving a 20 percent increase in SA sheep productivity by 2020. The Blueprint is set to boost the industry's production and value from \$1.48 billion in 2015 to \$1.8 billion by 2020 and develop a united value chain workforce plan to attract new and energetic people to the industry.

The Blueprint was developed through collaboration between Livestock SA and SASAG to develop a strategy for the sustainable growth of the sheep, wool and lamb industry. Livestock SA then partnered with the University of Adelaide in a five-year agreement to develop and implement the Blueprint. Dr Stephen Lee has been appointed as the Blueprint Manager.

Whole of chain collaboration is key, with the Blueprint guided by a working group of sheep and wool value chain stakeholder members, chaired by Moorlands sheep producer Allan Piggott, who is also a Livestock SA Board member.

Other issues include:

Lice detection. Sheep lice remains a concern within the SA industry, and Livestock SA continues to promote the need for improved policing and prosecution of producers who sell lice infested sheep at a market, or allow them to stray. The University of Adelaide and PIRSA are developing a test for the rapid and cheap detection of sheep lice. The test will allow more effective lice control, better targeted treatment and reduce the likelihood of chemical resistance.

Wild Dogs. Livestock SA continues to advocate for more funding from the South Australian Government to be allocated to wild dog control to stop their spread across agricultural and peri-urban areas. In particular, \$300,000 is urgently needed to employ expert wild dog trappers. Recently the State Government announced the appointment of a state wild dog coordinator, but Livestock SA believes more needs to be done and will continue to advocate for its members on this issue.

Sheep Industry Fund. Livestock SA members supported the SA Sheep Industry Fund (SIF) voluntary transaction levy rise from 35 cents to 55c, which came into effect on September 10 this year. This increase will underpin a stable fund, able to support industry into the future. Livestock SA also provided the opportunity for the SA Sheep Advisory Group Chair Leonie Mills to present an update at the recent Livestock SA AGM to enable greater awareness of how SIF monies are used.



Industry leadership renewal. Livestock SA continues to provide opportunities for up-and-coming leaders within the agricultural industry. At the Livestock SA AGM in September we welcomed Jamie Heinrich as our youngest-ever Board Member. Jamie was also awarded a Nuffield Scholarship. Board Member Penny Schulz continues to be recognised for her work in the industry, most recently starting a Sheep CRC-funded PhD to evaluate the use of smartphone apps in agriculture. Livestock SA members Fiona Rasheed, Kingston and Troy Fischer, Roseworthy were recently awarded Sheepmeat Industry Governance Scholarships, which allowed them to complete an Australian Institute of Company Directors course. Fiona also chairs the Primary Producers SA NRM Committee.

Brands Act. After much lobbying by Livestock SA and livestock producers around SA, the government committed to explore whether livestock brands could be attached to PICs. PIRSA is investigating what technological and financial barriers may exist in attaching brand diagrams to PIC records and is working with Livestock SA on a process for inclusion of brands and earmarks in PIC database.

Producer support. Livestock SA has continued to support producers in hard times through lobbying for drought relief in the South East and helping to coordinate fodder depots for fire recovery following the Pinery blaze in late 2015. New drought concessional loans were announced jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments. Following a drought forum at Naracoorte in November 2015, SA Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell provided a package of support.

Pastoral Board. The Northern Region has established a Pastoral Taskforce to consider changes that are required to make the Pastoral Act more workable.

Q fever. Livestock SA continues to advocate for a new national Q Fever Management Program including subsidisation of Q fever vaccinations. The issue came to prominence during the recent Federal Election campaign.