



Your strong and independent
voice for livestock producers

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David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water
GPO BOX 1047,
ADELAIDE SA 5001
(Emails: projectcoorong@sa.gov.au and minister.speirs@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

RE: Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basic Action Plan

At Livestock SA's recent Annual General Meeting, concerns were expressed about the possibility of further using flows from the South East to assist towards trying to maintain the long-term ecological health and resilience of the Coorong.

From discussions with officers from the Department for Environment and Water, augmenting the South East Flows Restoration Project with additional water from the South East that currently flows out to sea is one of five options being considered.

In relation to this option, there are fears from landowners and others in the South East that there may be further widening of drains to achieve this, with depletion of water for livestock and other uses - all to benefit the Coorong. These concerns are exacerbated when there are allegations that officials involved with the drains are not allowed to talk to landowners.

It is important that if this option is developed the South East community is consulted and kept fully informed throughout the process. There is a perception that any development of the drains is kept under wraps until it has been decided what will happen. Then when compulsory acquisition happens without not only the affected landowners but the community not fully understanding why, this soon leads to mistrust.

It is important that there is an open process. This has happened with the consultation that has recently taken place for the [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Action Plan](#) with the discussion paper, the series of local meetings and a readiness to discuss. This needs to continue.

As part of this process, Livestock SA suggests that there needs to be a business plan put to the South East so that they can see the benefits and costs of what has happened to date and what may be proposed.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Keynes
PRESIDENT