



Your strong and independent
voice for livestock producers

Livestock SA Inc. ABN: 12 332 656 991

Adelaide Showground - Heavy Horse Memorial Building, Leader Street, WAYVILLE SA 5034
PO Box 211, GOODWOOD SA 5034
P: 08 8297 2299 | F: 08 8293 8886 | E: admin@livestocksa.org.au | W: livestocksa.org.au

SUBMISSION

11 August 2023

Green Paper on South Australia's Energy Transition Engagement
Department for Energy and Mining
GPO Box 320
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Via Email: DEMenergytransition@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: South Australia's Green Paper on the energy transition

Livestock SA is the peak industry organisation for South Australia's red meat and wool industries. There are over 5,200 sheep producing businesses and more than 2,700 beef cattle producing businesses in the state. With a membership of over 3,500 sheep, beef cattle and goat production businesses, we work to secure a strong and sustainable livestock sector in South Australia.

South Australia's \$4.3 billion livestock industry is a key economic contributor to the state which supports 21,000 South Australian jobs across the red meat and wool industries.

Livestock SA is a member of Primary Producers SA (PPSA) and is the South Australian industry representative body of four national peak industry councils: Sheep Producers Australia, Wool Producers Australia, Cattle Australia and Goat Industry Council of Australia.

Livestock SA commends the South Australian Government's proactive pursuit of low-cost renewable energy for our state. SA's Beef and Sheep Industry Blueprints identify pathways to carbon neutrality by 2030 (CN30) as a clear goal to maintain our clean, green image from the consumers' perspective. However, the cost of meat processing in SA is one of the highest in the world, due in part, to high energy costs. Lower energy prices and greater access to reliable renewable energy will boost our sector's competitiveness in the most lucrative global markets. We welcome the opportunity to provide comment on South Australia's Green Paper on the Government's planned energy transition.

Background

Livestock SA notes that the South Australian Government is focussed on transitioning the state's energy system to achieve the twin goals of reducing state greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

These goals are closely aligned with our industry. In 2017, the red meat and livestock industry set a target to be carbon neutral by 2030 (CN30). Since 2005, our industry has reduced its CO₂-e emissions by more than any other industry sector in Australia. New research shows a 65 per cent carbon emissions reduction in the industry since 2005, but like the State Government's energy transition plan, a lot more investment will be needed if we are to reach the carbon neutral target by 2030.

The industry continues to invest millions of dollars in statutory producer levies each year to realise CN30. We have also benchmarked the actual warming potential of our industries and qualified that lamb production is already climate neutral, and we are getting closer to being climate neutral for beef. Governments are starting to recognise the need to invest in carbon initiatives that support and augment industry investment.

Livestock production is the most common and geographically diverse agricultural pursuit in South Australia. Undertaken on more than 50 per cent of the state's land mass, livestock production is essential to the economy and the wellbeing of regional communities by providing much needed employment and critical environmental stewardship functions. There is a wide range of livestock production systems in SA including extensive rangeland grazing, mixed cropping and intensive livestock grazing, pasture-fed and feedlot finishing systems.

Recommendation

The planned transition to green energy will have greatest impact on those communities and families living and working on the land. It is imperative that any transition strategy contains effective provisions to enable coexistence of land uses and supports fair outcomes for landowners and pastoral lessees, communities and other pre-existing land rights and uses.

We note the Green Paper addresses the need to carefully consider the rights of Traditional Landowners, but like other preliminary work from the government such as a new Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act, the same consideration does not appear to be afforded to producers. We are disappointed and perplexed as to why the government continues to fail to recognise the same rights of producers who also have a strong affinity with the land they have farmed, protected and improved for generations.

Large scale renewable energy facilities will require access to strategically located land. Livestock producers are custodians of more than 50 per cent of the state's natural resource base. As the largest land custodians in SA, livestock producers will by default also be farming many of the most optimal locations for wind and solar farms across our state, as well as the land required for critical supporting infrastructure and access. It is therefore essential that livestock producers are involved in the development of this transition plan.

To date, we have been disappointed with the approach government has taken when consulting with producers, and its indication that an unjust and inequitable stance will be taken when dealing with different land tenures (i.e. Crown lease or pastoral lease interests as being some form of 'inferior' tenure). This approach fails to recognise the market pricing realities in our industry, and it dismisses the investment and management decisions that have been made based on the reasonable notion that this tenure is practically equivalent to freehold title. That is particularly so in relation to the development and construction of infrastructure on Crown lease or pastoral lease land.

Besides contributing \$4.3 billion to the state's economy and supporting 21,000 South Australian jobs the red meat and wool industries are the state's largest manufacturing employer. Strong

macroeconomic indicators and trends, and the increasing global demand for animal protein and natural fibres highlight that there are great opportunities for the continued growth of these industries which will further underpin the state's economy and regional communities.

We thank the department for the opportunity to comment on the Green Paper and welcome continued engagement throughout this planning process. Please contact the Livestock SA office on (08) 8297 2299 or via admin@livestocksa.org.au if you would like to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely

Travis Tobin
Chief Executive Officer