



26th February 2009

Ms Jeanette Gellard
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Kangaroo Island NRM Board
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Dear Ms Gellard,

**RE: COMMENTS ON KANGAROO ISLAND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BOARD
DRAFT REGIONAL NRM PLAN**

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) thanks the Kangaroo Island NRM Board for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Regional NRM Plan. SAFF would like to acknowledge the Board on the significant amount of work in the development of the Plan.

SAFF is the peak farming organisation in South Australia with a proud history of representation and support for farmers dating back more than 100 years. SAFF represents land holders who actively manage the majority of South Australia's natural resources. Ultimately the core to the success of NRM planning in this state is very much dependant on engaging land managers to deliver the strategic outcomes. Because of this fundamental role, SAFF has taken a leadership role in the planning and development of natural resources management in South Australia. The Federation played a significant role in the development of the NRM Act 2004 and State NRM Plan.

SAFF considers the following areas of vital importance in the successful promotion of natural resources management to the farming community. Communication is crucial in getting information to the community so they are aware of what the Board does and how their levy funds are spent. Engagement of the Board with the community is essential so they feel they are involved in the natural resources management planning of their region and knowledge that their voices are being heard. The Board needs to be supportive of sustainable farming especially given the potential effects of climate change.

Please find attached SAFFs comments on the Draft NRM Plan. If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact myself ((08) 8569 4001 or 0417 883 659) or Ms Sandra Keane, Natural Resources Officer at the Federation on (08) 8410 7233.

Sincerely

Sandra Keane

for Sharon Starick
Chair, Natural Resources Committee



Comments on

Kangaroo Island
Natural Resources Management Board
Draft
Regional NRM Plan

by

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
(SAFF)
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

On

February 2009

CHAIR: Sharon Starick

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General Comments:

SAFF would like to acknowledge the Board on the significant amount of work in the development of the Plan.

SAFF acknowledges and congratulates the Board on the significant amount of work done to engage with the community including engaging with landholders that reside off the Island. Having meetings at both 3pm and 7pm at many locations across the Island was good in that it gave landholders ample opportunity to attend an evening meeting in a location that was close to their home. SAFF would like to see the Board continue linkages with participants that attended and look for new ways of engaging with landholders throughout the region.

The fact sheets produced complement the Draft NRM Plan well. They were very useful and easy to read. The 'Primary producers' fact sheet was useful in that it shows landholders that the NRM Board is interested in sustainable agriculture as well as biodiversity. It would have been useful to have a fact sheet that shows who the Board members are and if they are involved in primary production, as it is important for landholders to see that they are being represented on the Board. A fact sheet about the NRM Levy and examples of how it has been spent on projects on the Island would also be useful as well.

The Plan appears to be a well-written professional document.

Specific Comments:

Agriculture, farming systems and land management are well covered within the document and supported with the inclusion of best practice guidelines. SAFF would encourage the Board to continue to use the approach of encouragement (information and incentives) to get change and use the Act as a last resort.

Issues that could have been further enhanced with the Plan are:

- The impact of plantation forestry on the water balance and how this will be dealt with in the light of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, and with climate change the great need for highly productive land to produce food given global concerns regarding food availability.
- The impact of native species out of balance eg wallabies, koalas is mentioned within the State of the Region but there do not appear to be any targets/strategies within the Strategic Plan.

Guiding principles do not include 'innovation' which will be a key to improving our agricultural systems and natural resources so that they are more resilient to climate change.

The inclusion of MERLIN gives confidence to the management of our natural resources.

The NRM levy can at times be a contentious issue. SAFF understands the need to raise a levy and the need to increase the levy. SAFF appreciates that the Board plans to increase the levy over 3 years in line with the CPI.

SAFF would encourage the Board to consider stewardship payments in the delivery of some of its targets.

The Strategic Plan does not identify who the Board may need to develop partnerships with or stakeholders which will enable the plan to be delivered, eg the Board has the opportunity to work with farming systems groups, Ag KI and private consultants.

Strategic Plan, Table 4 – The Board needs to acknowledge and encourage non-organised NRM event participation, eg. Work done by individuals/landholders on their properties.

SAFF are open to discussion around potential partnership opportunities within the region regarding the implementation of the Plan.