



Comments on

SA Arid Lands
Natural Resources Management Board
Draft
Regional NRM Plan

by

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

On

January 2010

CHAIR: Sharon Starick

Level 1, 67 South Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

CONTACT: Natural Resources Executive Officer
Ms Sandra Keane
Email: skeane@saff.com.au

PO Box 6014
Halifax Street SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8410 7233
Facsimile: (08) 8211 7303
Website: www.saff.com.au

General Comments:

The South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board is congratulated on the work undertaken in preparing their draft Regional NRM Plan and for producing a Plan that is well structured and easy to read.

The Plan could be strengthened by incorporating specific information on actions that are to take place within the region. It is recommended that explicit links between the Regional Plan and State NRM Plan be made, as these are not clearly detailed in its current form. The Plan would also benefit by clearly identifying existing and potential linkages to cross regional initiatives and stakeholders.

Should the proposed levy be introduced it will be vital for the Board to develop a strategy to ensure that community support and availability for NRM volunteering is not undermined and reduced as a consequence. There are opportunities to learn from the experiences of other Boards in their delivery of the levy. SAFF would appreciate being involved in further discussions with regards to the development of such a levy.

The Plan had a relatively limited focus on sustainable agriculture and so could be strengthened by including actions to assist the sustainability of agriculture, given climate change.

The information booklet (What's it all about?) provides a good summary of the Plan, the Board and how the Plan affects the different stakeholders in the region.

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

Specific Comments:

Page 40 – Under Total Grazing Pressure – another indicator of high grazing pressure is infestation of weeds

Page 56 – A whole of management approach is required for the Great Artesian Basin involving Qld, NSW and SA to ensure sustainability of the Basin for the long-term. Work undertaken in isolation of the other states will not address de-pressurisation of the Basin.

Page 64 – Changing Surface Water Flows – there is no mention of the importance of other states and impacts that this can have on surface water flows. A major omission is Qld and its impacts as far as potential to allocated water from the Coopers Creek and the long-term impacts on Coongie Lakes. It needs to be acknowledged that issues associated with changing surface water flows will require a whole of management approach, i.e. the States and NRM bodies working together.

Page 130 – MAT 5 – Industry/research organisations should be included as potential partners.

Page 101 – MAT 10 – Implications for pest plant and animal management if pastoralists leave the land as a result of climate change. Who will manage the abandoned land and what are the risks to the natural resources?

Page 135 – MAT 41 – Potential partner may be pastoral industry as well? As a result of climate change, cattle/sheep may not be as viable as it has been historically, and landholders may start tourism ventures.