



16 January 2014

Mr John Ringham
Chief Executive
SA Water
GPO Box 1751
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mr Ringham

I write on behalf of the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia regarding the cost of water for broad acre farmers in South Australia.

The Board considered this issue at its last meeting and the following comments were made by members:

- The rising costs to primary producers of mains water over past 15 months a two to three fold increase per kilolitre;
- It costs approximately \$1.50 to change the water in a sheep or cattle trough so with troughs cleaned weekly as should be, cost of running livestock is increased. This is an animal welfare issue if livestock don't have fresh clean water. Some properties can have a trough to every 150 sheep or 40 to 50 cattle, to be viable 2,500 to 3,000 sheep are needed (10 sheep = 1 cattle);
- This does not count domestic water use;
- The clean down water costs for dairy farmers;
- If these costs continue, there will be the issue of viability of livestock enterprises;
- These issues are effecting all primary producers on mains water across the state unless the government of the day can come to some other arrangement for supplying water to producers across the state;
- Some allowance should be made for infrastructure replacement as leaks are expensive, often new pipes aren't replaced as the cost of filling them can be expensive.

While the Board understands this is a difficult issue, it would appreciate your response to the above comments.

Yours sincerely

Mark Grossman
Chair