



Barossa Rural Area and Character review-Additional Submission by Livestock SA

- Livestock SA is the peak industry body for all South Australian sheep, beef cattle and goat producers.
- All holders of a PIC are entitled to be members of Livestock SA and no membership fee is charged.
- Livestock SA is funded by voluntary levies on sheep transactions and cattle ear tags.

Livestock production is a significant contributor to the South Australian economy. The grazing industries had a farm gate value of almost \$1.0 billion per annum. This is approximately 20% of the total value of South Australia's agricultural production.

Livestock have been a major component of agriculture in the Barossa area ever since settlement. George Fife Angus in his painting "Lyndoch Valley towards Barossa Range" depicts a shepherd and his dogs and sheep. He is reported in *'Travels in time: the Barossa valley in the 1850's, around 1900 and in the 1940's'* by Susan Marsden as describing the country around Lyndoch Valley and the Barossa Range as "of a very superior character with well watered valleys, and gentle hills covered with good grass".

Following our initial submission we ask for these additional points be considered:

1. The Barossa is not just about grapes. In the Barossa Local Government Area there are 584 farming establishments with 61,230 hectares used for agriculture (Of this area 45,698 hectares is grazed by livestock, 13,626 hectares is under grapes and the balance is under other crops (Situational analysis: agricultural production in the Barossa Region=RDA).

The amount of land used for grazing or growing crops other than grapes in the Barossa LGA is significant and contributes greatly to the local economy. Given the somewhat perilous state of the wine industry at present, the grazing and other crop industries are becoming more important in building on future returns from agriculture in the area.

With the adoption of new management practices in both the grazing and grain industries productivity is increasing. Practises such as tighter lambing periods, autumn mating of ewes to maximise ovulation rates, scanning ewes for multiple foetuses, improved wool cuts, tighter calving spreads, better pasture species, and the use of more deep rooted perennial species in pasture mixes in the grazing industries. Whilst in the grain industries the uptake of no till methods, and precision farming are just the tip of iceberg when considering the adoption of new practises.

This adoption of new practises is giving the area momentum in improving both productivity and profitability. This momentum will, if given the opportunity, increase the relative ranking of broadacre farming to other agricultural pursuits. This momentum must not be stymied by

nonsensical planning regulations or removing the right to farm in the area. The broadacre industries need support rather than being emasculated.

2. When the ancient Greeks in the Third Century BC coined the phrase “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” they showed great perception of the human race. They understood we are all different, whether it is due to genotype, phenotype, personality, perception, objectivity or values. Such differences still occur.

Some people find a vineyard in mid spring something to salivate over when others prefer few leafed vines in winter awaiting machine pruning the thing of choice. An old dairy, hay shed, shearing shed, machinery shed or a set of stock yards appeal to many. And to some a tank farm surrounded by wine tanks appeals but to others it appals.

A paddock of lambing ewes or calving cows is appreciated by others. The sight of gambolling lambs on a sunny spring day or of calves seeking solace from their mothers is hard to reject. Likewise a herd of contented cows sitting chewing their cuds can be a sight to behold.

When conditions are placed on broadacre farmers that prevent the construction of essential farm infrastructure because it may taint the visual amenity this is a considerable impediment to their rights.

In order to allow the region to move forward in terms of productivity it is important that broadacre farmers be allowed to construct essential infrastructure; whether it be hay, machinery, dairy or wool sheds, fences to allow rotational grazing, laneways for stock movements or stockyards for handling livestock.

The approval of an application should be based upon it meeting required building regulations not on whether someone declares it to be objectionable. We should allow common sense to prevail and let the application be assessed on its contribution to the local economy rather than whether it offends someone’s view of visual amenity.

3. At the centre of the review is the right to farm. As broadacre farming has been part and parcel of many properties in the Barossa since settlement their rights cannot be just brushed aside because someone dislikes the buildings, stockyards or other essential infrastructure.

To put constraints on or reject their replacement or construction is contrary to their right to farm. When the development of land for an alternative land use is considered, this change should be subject to a study of the impacts on existing landowners. They should not be required to curtail their normal farming practises because it may impinge on the new development or activity.

Existing broadacre farmers in the Barossa area should be nurtured and supported in their endeavours not treated like pariahs. They need their “right-to-farm” protected in order that they may continue to increasingly contribute to the local economy.

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