

# South Australian State Election 2026: Strategic Priorities for a Stronger Livestock Industry

South Australia's livestock industry contributes \$4.49 billion annually, supports more than 21,000 jobs, manages over 50% of the state's landmass, and underpins the state's largest manufacturing sector – food and beverage processing. A strong livestock industry is fundamental to regional communities, employment, food security and South Australia's economic strength.

The industry faces mounting pressures including under-investment in freight routes, regulatory duplication, climate variability, rising costs, labour shortages, and ageing biosecurity infrastructure. These targeted priorities represent high-value, low-risk investments that deliver measurable returns to producers, processors, transport operators, manufacturers and consumers.

## 1. Our Environment — \$4 million

Support carbon baselining, biodiversity measurement and a modern, workable Aboriginal Heritage framework to enable responsible land management and participation in emerging sustainability markets.

**ROI: 5:1**

## 2. Our Market Access — \$40 million over 4 years

Upgrade priority livestock freight routes to address the \$2.1 billion maintenance backlog, reduce transport costs, improve safety and support reliable access to processing and export markets.

**ROI: 4:1**

## 3. Our Industry — \$20 million

Establish a South Australian Rural Finance and Resilience Agency to deliver efficient concessional loans, drought and disaster support, and co-investment finance to address market failures in recovery and support sovereign food production capability.

**ROI: 6:1**

## 4. Our People — Policy reforms

Implement a State Drought Agreement, reduce agricultural red tape by 25% by 2030, and invest in targeted workforce initiatives to address critical labour shortages across the supply chain.

**ROI: Structural cost savings**

## 5. Our Livestock — \$3.6 million

Upgrade the biosecurity truck wash network to improve disease preparedness, protect market access, and support safe, efficient livestock transport.

**ROI: 30:1**

## Why This Matters for All South Australians

These priorities will:

- Strengthen regional economies and secure local jobs.
- Improve animal welfare, biosecurity and environmental performance.
- Support food and beverage manufacturing, SA's largest industrial sector.
- Reduce compliance burden and improve investment certainty.
- Boost resilience to droughts, floods and supply chain shocks.
- Protect South Australia's premium food and fibre reputation.

A strong, resilient and competitive livestock industry benefits the entire state – from producers and regional communities to processors, consumers, and the broader economy.