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SUBMISSION

30 September 2026

Good Government Advisory

Review of the *Cross Border Commissioner Act 2022*

Appointed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Via Email: crossborderreview@sa.gov.au / DPCSocialandIntergovernmentalRelations@sa.gov.au

Dear Review Team

Re: **Submission to Review of the *Cross Border Commissioner Act 2022***

Livestock SA is the peak industry organisation for South Australia's red meat and wool producers. Representing over 5,200 sheep producers, 2,700 beef cattle producers and several hundred goat producers across the state, we work to secure a strong and sustainable livestock industry. South Australia's \$4.3 billion livestock industry is a key economic contributor to the state and supports 21,000 South Australian jobs across the red meat and wool industries.

Livestock SA welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Review of the *Cross Border Commissioner Act 2022* (the Act), which is important to our members and industries.

South Australian border regions contain a significant concentration of livestock businesses that move livestock, freight, workers and inputs between jurisdictions. Differing regulations and service arrangements create delays, complexity and additional costs. The Commissioner can help coordinate practical responses and improve the operating environment for these businesses.

Livestock SA supports retaining the (the Act) and the Office of the Cross Border Commissioner within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The Office should have a stronger focus on measurable outcomes for primary producers, regional businesses and border communities. Priorities should include regulatory consistency, biosecurity, freight, workforce mobility, drought response, and coordinated pest and emergency management across state borders.

Recommendation 1: Retain the *Cross Border Commissioner Act 2022* and the Office of the Cross Border Commissioner

The statutory office should be retained as cross-border issues often fall between portfolio, agency and jurisdictional responsibilities. A dedicated Commissioner can provide clear leadership and coordination where responsibility might otherwise be unclear.

Recommendation 2: Formalise engagement with primary industries, including Livestock SA

The Commissioner's functions support collaboration, advocacy, economic development, regulatory reform, service access and communication. Formal, sustained engagement with primary industry organisations would strengthen delivery.

Livestock SA recommends amending section 7(b) of the Act to expressly recognise engagement with industry:

“to work and engage with all tiers of government, businesses, **industry** and the community to ensure the needs of cross-border communities are considered in the development and implementation of policy, procedures and legislation”.

Livestock SA's direct engagement with the Commissioner during 2024–25 included:

- 2024 drought and seasonal roundtables, providing a direct avenue to raise producer impacts, assistance gaps and regional priorities.
- The June 2025 Fodder Roundtable Reference Group, supporting action to improve fodder access from Western Australia into South Australia and Victoria.
- Special footrot arrangements for the Mount Gambier and Naracoorte saleyards, addressing livestock movement and biosecurity requirements.

Livestock SA has also recently engaged with the Commissioner on wild dog management along the South Australia–Victoria border, where Victorian controls may shift predator pressure onto South Australian agricultural land. Effective management now requires coordinated monitoring, incident data and adaptive action across both states.

These examples demonstrate the value of engagement and support a regular, structured and transparent partnership with Livestock SA and the broader primary industries sector.

Recommendation 3: Establish agriculture, livestock supply chains and the regional businesses that support livestock production as standing priorities
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Livestock SA recommends that agriculture, livestock supply chains and supporting regional businesses—including transport, processing, agricultural services and input suppliers—be standing priorities in the Commissioner's strategic and annual work programs.

Priority areas should include:

- livestock and agricultural freight
- biosecurity preparedness and response
- wild dog and pest management
- drought and emergency coordination
- fodder and input supply
- seasonal and skilled workforce mobility
- regulatory recognition and consistency
- regional service delivery in border communities.

This recommendation aligns with the Commissioner's 2025–26 Strategic Priorities, which include:

- understanding economic and policy settings in key industries, including agriculture; and
- genuine engagement with border communities, businesses and leaders in agriculture, transport, health and education to identify cross-border issues.

Recommendation 4: Undertake an inquiry into cross-border regulatory and operational barriers affecting livestock production, transport and supply chains.
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The Commissioner's 2025–26 Strategic Priorities provide for targeted inquiries informed by consultation and engagement. Livestock SA recommends that the next work program include an inquiry into cross-border regulatory and operational barriers affecting livestock production, transport and supply chains.

Recommendation 5: Investigate a dedicated fund to support the Commissioner in addressing priority cross-border infrastructure and service barriers.

The investigation should assess whether a fund would help translate identified priorities into practical projects for regional businesses, primary producers and border communities.

The NSW Government previously operated a cross-border infrastructure fund that supported projects delivering social, economic, environmental or cultural benefits across border regions. Although the program is not currently open, it provides a useful model for consideration.

Potential funding priorities could include:

- freight and heavy vehicle infrastructure
- livestock transport and supply-chain efficiency
- cross-border biosecurity and emergency-management infrastructure
- telecommunications and digital connectivity
- workforce mobility and skills
- cross-border access to health and veterinary services
- drought resilience and water security
- shared services with neighbouring jurisdictions.

A dedicated funding mechanism could strengthen the Commissioner's advocacy and coordination role by enabling priority solutions to progress after barriers are identified.

For example, funding could support cross-border biosecurity infrastructure such as livestock wash bays, which would assist emergency animal disease controls and routine management of pests, diseases and weeds.

Conclusion

Livestock SA supports retaining and strengthening the Commissioner's role to deliver practical, measurable outcomes for South Australian livestock businesses and border communities. Formal industry engagement, clear agricultural priorities, targeted inquiries and investigation of a dedicated fund would improve coordination and help resolve persistent cross-border barriers.

Please contact the Livestock SA office on (08) 8297 2299 or via email at admin@livestocksa.com.au if you would like to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely

Travis Tobin
Chief Executive Officer