



The South Australian Sheep Industry Blueprint

– a plan for industry growth from 2015 to 2020

Blueprint Update ... with Chairman Allan Piggott

The South Australian Sheep Industry Blueprint will mark a milestone next month when it is launched on **Tuesday, April 12**, in conjunction with a Sheep and Beef Industry Forum at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills.

The forum will be held alongside Meat & Livestock Australia's inaugural Meat Standards Australia Excellence in Eating Quality Awards, recognising SA's top performing MSA producers for 2014-15.

The combined event will feature concurrent sheep and beef sessions which focus on growing the value and productivity of SA's sheep industry and the MLA Future of Beef Eating Quality Forum.

These sessions will provide a fantastic opportunity for industry stakeholders to hear more on MLA's research and funding priorities and planned outcomes, and their continued focus on grassroot producers.

Southern Australia Meat Research Council members will also be there, providing an additional opportunity for producers to hear the latest on future research and development of their industry. SAMRC is a MLA initiative encouraging grassroots cattle and sheep producers across southern Australia to drive the future direction of levy-payer funded research and development for their area.

Australian Wool Innovation will also discuss opportunities and challenges facing the wool industry.

This launch will be a landmark day for the sheep industry, heralding a new, united and coordinated push to boost the industry's productivity and I encourage everyone to register and come along for a great day of learning and networking.

The South Australian sheep industry continues to garner plenty of optimism from producers with excellent margins and prices continuing to remain at about \$5 a kilogram.

The biggest concern at this stage is a lack of supply, with the national sheep flock remaining at 70 million head, and lamb production predicted to drop slightly in 2016.

The Blueprint working group has worked hard in the past eight months to ensure all SA sheep industry stakeholders have had the chance to have their say on the Blueprint through a series of public consultation meetings and individual engagement with industry stakeholders.

We have been very encouraged with interest and support received.

I'd like to thank Blueprint Manager Stephen Lee and the working group for their hard work, and look forward to the April 12 launch – which will ensure strategy is put into action to improve and grow our industry.