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MIN. BIGNELL



Hon Leon Bignell MP
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
GPO Box 464
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

The Cattle Advisory Group strongly recommends that the Cattle Advisory Group is retained due to the following:

- Efficiency** – SACAG gives industry advice to the Government through the Minister, through meetings of the Group Representatives, who represent various industry areas. These Representatives have considerable expertise in a number of different areas within the industry, as the Cattle Advisory Group represents both the Dairy and Beef industries. This is a most cost effective and efficient way to get a broad cross section of the industry involved in the vital decision making that effects the industry in a range of issues including Biosecurity, Market Access, Residue Issues, Disease Control and Eradication Programs. Group members contribute a wide range of expertise in Beef Cattle production from arid lands through to high rainfall country and Dairy production with associated health care of all animals. All members have cropping and/or grazing backgrounds. The cost to run this group on a six year average is \$22,751 per annum. The majority of these costs are funded by the industry.
- The SA CAG provides a level of relative independence from Industry Representative Bodies, necessary when apportioning and raising levy monies that those bodies are partly themselves recipients of. Each Advisory Group member, and therefore the Group, is also **independent** from Government, without any alliances, and gives a large amount of time and expertise from across a range of sectors to benefit the whole industry. A number of the group have been in the industry their whole working lives and draw on lessons learnt over this period to best advise the Minister. Add to this their total independence which gives advice without personal agendas.
- Recommendations of use of Cattle Industry Funds** – An industry fund was established at the commencement of this group. The SACAG recommends to the Minister the projects to which industry funds, generated from the cattle industry, should be allocated, and maintain the fund in an orderly way to benefit the industry. Ensuring that funds are used wisely and efficiently is based on knowledge of industry issues, and across all facets of the Cattle Industry. Protecting the state against major threats of disease and maintaining market access have been a big focus of the group. We are also committed to having good border controls to protect our State cattle industry.
- SACAG **consults** across all areas of the cattle industry and provides that information back to Government through the Minister. A recent example of this was the consultation on Collection Methodology & Contribution rate, relating to maintaining a sustainable Cattle Industry Fund (CIF).

5. SACAG is realistic in its approach to the needs to reduce costs as much as practicable, but not in such a way that it will impact on the advice that SACAG gives Government on the issues that affect the Cattle industry, our ability to produce top quality beef and dairy produce, and to increase our State's profitability.
6. There is no other body or Group that can provide the information or resources that the SACAG can. The Group was set up in 1998 to provide this information, and has always tried to give maximum industry information through to the Minister of Government to benefit all parties. The sitting members, of which there are (9), come from a diverse background and geographical spread across the State. The links they have to industry would be unmatched by any group currently available to give advice to the Minister. Whilst there may be options available to the Minister for receiving advice on the cattle industry and especially the management of the Cattle Industry Fund (CIF) (funds contributed by cattle owners and breeders) we believe that considerable time and thought should be given to researching those possibilities. The ramifications to our valuable SA cattle industry, both beef and dairy, are profound.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Andrew Withers
CHAIR, SA CATTLE ADVISORY GROUP