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Frances Simes
Chair
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
PO Box 2343
Murray Bridge SA 5253

By email: mr.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

16 March 2026

Dear Ms Simes

RE: Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft *Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan 2026-31* (the Plan).

Primary Producers SA ('PPSA') is the peak industry body representing the interests of South Australian primary producers and is the South Australian member of the National Farmers Federation. Our members are the peak commodity organisations of South Australia. Current members include Grain Producers SA, Livestock SA, SA Dairyfarmers' Association, SA Forest Products Association, Horticulture Coalition of SA, and the Wine Grape Council of SA.

At the heart of PPSA's mandate is the protection and advancement of South Australia's primary industries, together with the people, communities, livestock, plants and natural resources that sustain therm. We believe it is essential for industry and government to work in genuine partnership to design policies and investments that strengthen primary industries while ensuring the responsible management of the state's natural resources and landscapes.

Primary producers play a central role in the Murraylands and Riverland region, contributing significantly to the South Australian economy while managing large areas of land and natural resources that underpin regional environmental outcomes.

PPSA welcomes the collaborative approach taken in developing the draft Plan and recognises the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's commitment to working with regional communities, industry and stakeholders to deliver healthy and resilient landscapes.

The success of the Plan will depend on strong partnerships with landholders and industry. Primary producers manage much of the region's land and water resources and are therefore essential partners in the implementation of many of the priorities outlined in the Plan.

This submission provides PPSA's feedback on the draft Plan and outlines areas of investment priority for the primary production sector. PPSA looks forward to working constructively with the Board and other stakeholders to support sustainable landscape outcomes across the region.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact admin@ppsa.org.au

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Rhodes

Chief Executive Officer, Primary Producers SA

Copy:

Ben Bruce, Chief Executive, Department of Environment and Water (DEW)

Prof Mehdi Doroudi, Chief Executive, Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development SA (PIRSA)

PRIMARY PRODUCERS SA (PPSA)

Submission in response to the Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan

Date of submission: 13 March 2026

PPSA at a glance

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) is the peak industry body representing the interests of South Australian primary producers.

PPSA also serves as the South Australian member of the National Farmers Federation (NFF). This ensures PPSA is directly engaged in all NFF activities including implementation of the Roadmap for Australian Agriculture to exceed $100 billion in farm gate value by 2030.

PPSA has the capacity to provide strong representation and advocacy on behalf of the South Australian primary production sector through our membership base.

Our members are the peak commodity organisations of South Australia. Current members include Grain Producers SA, Livestock SA, SA Dairyfarmers' Association, SA Forest Products Association, Horticulture Coalition of SA, and the Wine Grape Council of SA. Each organisation is represented by a councillor on the PPSA Policy Council, to provide direction and oversee the operations of PPSA.

Our purpose

As the united voice of South Australia's primary production sector, our purpose is:

- To **advocate the interests and concerns of Primary Producers** to both State and Federal governments and community using evidence-based reasoning;
- To **present one voice** to government, both State and Federal, and the wider community on Cross-Commodity issues affecting Primary Producers in South Australia;
- To **promote Primary Production in South Australia** and ensure that the contributions and achievements of South Australian Primary Producers are recognised; and
- To **assist stakeholders and suppliers to Primary Production** where such assistance will benefit Primary Producers.

What we do

PPSA develops the South Australian primary production sector through:

1. **Engagement**. PPSA partners with government and industry to develop policies and programs that promote the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of South Australian primary production.
2. **Leadership**. PPSA acts as the conduit to the South Australian primary production sector and presents a united voice on behalf of its membership in advocacy and representative activities.
3. **Communication**. PPSA influences policy makers by promoting the contribution we make to the South Australian economy and engaging positively with government and the broader community.

Submission: Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan

Introduction

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) has reviewed the draft *Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan* (hereafter 'the Plan').

The Murraylands and Riverland region is one of South Australia's most significant agricultural regions, supporting diverse industries including irrigated horticulture, viticulture, dryland cropping, grazing and pastoral production. These industries play a major role in the South Australian economy and underpin the communities of the region.

The draft Plan appropriately recognises the importance of agriculture to the region and acknowledges that primary production is the dominant land use across much of the landscape.

Primary producers also play an important role in landscape stewardship through their day-to-day management of land, water, and native vegetation.

PPSA broadly supports the direction of the draft Plan and welcomes its emphasis on partnership approaches to landscape management. Effective collaboration between government, industry and regional communities will be critical to achieving the Plan's objectives.

Following a summary of key messages, PPSA provides feedback on the regional priorities outlined in the Plan.

Key Messages

Strong partnership with industry will be essential

Primary producers manage of a large proportion of the land across the Murraylands and Riverland region and are therefore key partners in achieving landscape management outcomes.

Ongoing engagement with industry organisations will ensure that programs and initiatives are practical, aligned with farming systems and supported by those responsible for managing land and natural resources.

Core landscape management priorities should remain a focus

PPSA strongly supports continued investment in core Landscape Board functions including:

- Soil health and sustainable land management
- Weed and pest animal management
- Water resource management and planning

These activities deliver significant environmental and productivity benefits and area central to both sustainable agriculture and healthy landscapes.

Regulatory approaches should prioritise partnerships and incentives

PPSA notes that some elements of the Plan reference compliance and regulatory approaches.

While regulation plays an important role in landscape management, policy settings should prioritise:

- Education and technical support
- Incentive based programs
- Collaborative partnerships

Where regulatory frameworks are required, they should be proportionate, risk-based and designed in close consultation with industry.

Climate resilience initiatives should be practical and collaborative

The agricultural sector is already adapting to a changing climate through improvements in farm management practices, technology adoption and long-term planning.

Programs that support improved soil health, water efficiency, drought preparedness and climate risk management can provide practical pathways for strengthening landscape and business resilience.

Climate initiatives are most effective when they:

- Support voluntary participation
- Provide clear economic or productivity benefits
- Align with existing national and state policy settings
- Avoid unnecessary regulatory complexity for producers

Productive agriculture underpins regional resilience

Agriculture is a foundation of economic activity and employment across the Murraylands and Riverland region.

Maintaining the productivity and sustainability of agricultural systems is therefore essential not only for food and fibre production but also for regional economic resilience and community wellbeing.

Feedback on Priorities

Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes

PPSA strongly supports the Plan's focus on maintaining long-term agricultural productivity and sustainability across the region.

In particular, PPSA supports initiatives that:

- Improve soil health and groundcover management
- Strengthen biosecurity surveillance and preparedness
- Deliver coordinated weed and pest animal control across all land tenures

These activities deliver both environmental and economic benefits and should represent core business for Landscape Board programs.

PPSA supports initiatives that support the protection and enhancement of on-farm biodiversity and native vegetation management where these approaches are practical and compatible with farming operations. Participation in nature repair and carbon markets must remain voluntary, commercially viable and supported by clear flexibility mechanisms. Long-term encumbrances on land title, permanence obligations and shifting policy settings create financial and intergenerational risk for producers.

Sustainable Water Use

Water is a critical resource underpinning both environmental health and economic activity across the Murraylands and Riverland region through both surface and groundwater systems.

PPSA supports the Plan's focus on:

- Improving irrigation efficiency and productivity of water use
- Supporting water users to manage climate risks and extreme events
- Strengthening community understanding of water resource management
- Ensuring balanced and evidence-based water allocation planning for surface and groundwater systems

Secure and transparent water allocation frameworks are essential for maintaining investment confidence and enabling long-term planning by primary producers.

PPSA encourages ongoing collaboration between the Landscape Board, irrigation industries, government agencies and regional stakeholders to strengthen water security and support efficient water use.

Healthy Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands

PPSA recognises the importance of maintaining healthy river systems, wetlands and riparian environments for biodiversity, water quality and community wellbeing.

Program aimed at protecting aquatic ecosystems and managing pest plants and animals are supported, particularly where they:

- Integrate agricultural land management with environmental outcomes
- Provide practical guidance and technical support to landholders
- Recognise the importance of maintaining productive landscapes alongside environmental objectives.

Healthy Natural Landscapes

Primary producers play a significant role in conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the regional through the management of native vegetation and habitat areas on private land.

Many farmers already contribute to improving conservation outcomes through activities such as:

- Managing remnant vegetation
- Establishing shelterbelts and habitat corridors

- Participating on revegetation programs
- Managing weed and pest animals

Programs that support landholders through technical advice, economic incentives and collaborative projects can strengthen these outcomes.

Large-scale habitat restoration initiatives are conditionally supported provided they carefully consider potential impacts on land use, water resources and regional food production capacity. Actions to remove redundant pastoral dams must be undertake in close collaboration with pastoralists.

People at the Heart of Landscape Management

PPSA strongly supports the Plan's emphasis on partnerships, community participation and collaborative landscape management.

Successful landscape management depends on effective engagement with regional communities, industry organisations and landholders.

PPSA supports initiatives that:

- Strengthen partnerships with primary producers and industry groups
- Build knowledge and capacity within farming communities
- Support young people to engage with landscape management
- Enable community-led projects that delivery practical on-ground outcomes

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Conclusion

PPSA broadly supports the direction and priorities outlined in the draft *Murraylands and Riverland Regional Landscape Plan 2026-31*.

The Plan provides a strong framework for collaborative landscape management across the region and recognises the important role of primary producers in delivering environmental outcomes.

Continued engagement with the agricultural sector will be essential to ensure the Plan's initiatives are practical, effective and supported by the landholders responsible for managing much of the region's landscape.

PPSA looks forward to working constructively with the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the Plan and the continued sustainability of the region's landscapes and primary production industries.

ENDS.