

South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy calls for amendments to draft Pastoral Bill

SACOME calls for changes to the draft Pastoral Bill to better enable sustainable economic diversification of pastoral land.

The South Australian Government has recently released the draft Pastoral Lands Bill to replace the existing *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* which governs the environmental and economic management of over 39 million hectares of pastoral land, approximately 40% of South Australia.

The South Australian resources sector is a key stakeholder in the rangelands, with SACOME's membership comprising operators who are pastoral lease holders, operate businesses on pastoral leases, and who have substantial economic interests on pastoral lands.

At present the draft Pastoral Bill is narrowly focused on meat and wool production and permits alternate use of pastoral land only where it can support the economic sustainability of livestock grazing.

This has significant potential to constrain any alternate land use activity such as environmental offsets and carbon farming, both of which are of vital importance to the resources sector.

Rebecca Knol, CEO said "SACOME supports further changes to the draft Pastoral Bill to allow for sustainable economic diversification of pastoral land."

"The Pastoral Bill should enable innovation and adaptation in response to influences such as drought, climate change and market opportunities."

"Carbon farming and environmental offsets are important in assisting the resources sector to reduce its emissions profile and to meet environmental obligations under Federal and State law."

"The sector works in close partnership with conservation companies providing carbon farming and environmental offset services. SACOME seeks to ensure that the Pastoral Bill explicitly allows these activities by incorporating them in the Act."

"A broad cross-section of industry is engaging in good faith motivated by a shared interest in the long-term health and productivity of South Australia's rangelands."

"SACOME encourages the South Australian Government to resolve stakeholder concerns with the Bill ahead of it being introduced to Parliament."

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About SACOME

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy is the peak industry association representing companies with interests and connections to the South Australian resources and energy sector.