



Natural Resources Centre

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Dear Landholder

I write to you on behalf of the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board.

The Board works with communities to manage soil, water, pest plant and animal control and biodiversity management to ensure economic and environmental benefits for the region. The Board is funded by both NRM levies and Australian Government grants, and in recent years the board has kept levy increases to a minimum.

You will notice that the NRM levy has increased on your 2016-17 year Council rates. This is in response to a range of new and increased costs which have been applied for the services provided to the Board by the SA Government, which the Board had no alternative but to accept.

If the Board is to continue delivering upon its legal obligations under the regional NRM plan and the NRM Act (2004), an increase in the NRM levy is required to cover these costs.

As Presiding Member I endeavour to bring sound governance and integrity to my position, and ultimately to the Board. I try to strike a balance between economic opportunities and sustainable management of natural landscapes in our region. As a Board, we are responsible for identifying regional NRM issues, representing our community, providing advice to government about how NRM issues should be resolved and, above all else, ensuring that the levy we collect is spent wisely.

Our livelihoods, lifestyles and landscapes are all closely linked to the soil, water, native plants and animals around us. With more than eighty per cent of our region under agricultural production, the sustainable use of our soils and water assets is critical to our long-term prosperity as a region.

We recognise that everyone who lives and works in the region has an impact on the environment. As such, we all share the responsibility and cost of caring for our land, water, native plants and animals, and coastal areas.

The NRM levy contributes significantly towards the sustainable use of our natural resources by improving agricultural productivity, minimising stock losses, improving crop yields and stimulating regional economic growth. This is achieved through increasing farm yields by assisting and sponsoring weed management and control programs, advances in soil conditioning techniques and no tillage farming techniques, amongst many other initiatives that are supported and sponsored by the NRM Board.





Similarly, the management and control of pest animals such as foxes is having significant productivity improvements in the sheep industry by substantially reducing lambing deaths to predatory animals.

The Board is committed to sharing knowledge with younger generations about caring for our environment through NRM education programs, including Young Environmental Leaders, Environmental Education Days and Nature Play sessions.

The NRM Board encourages the community to consider the levy not only as a means to preserve the environment, but also as an investment in the sustainable future of our unique region.

If you would like to learn more about how the levy benefits the Northern and Yorke region, please visit our website at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke.

Whilst visiting our website, I encourage you to review our Landscape Summaries for the region to ensure that your voice is heard and the priorities for your natural resources are represented.

Yours sincerely

Eric Sommerville
PRESIDING MEMBER
NORTHERN AND YORKE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD