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To the IGAB Review Secretariat

The Presiding Members of South Australia's Natural Resources Management Boards welcome the opportunity to comment on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity Review Draft Report.

Over recent years, the role of NRM Boards has been strengthened by greater integration with the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources which has brought a clearer focus on support for community engagement in planning, decision making and delivery.

Biosecurity is an issue that traverses government agencies and at the heart of our collaborative approach is the NRM Boards' partnership with the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions of South Australia, predominantly through its Biosecurity SA division.

Managing the impact of invasive species is a high priority for all NRM Boards in South Australia. As South Australia's leading organisations in managing natural resources we have decades of experience in delivering invasive species management programmes on the ground. We have learned what works and what doesn't, and have continuously refined our approach over time to ensure they are adaptive and self-sustaining.

Over the last ten years there has been a shift toward land owners, local and regional communities, NRM Boards and Government working in partnership around natural resources management. It has been proven that this is more effective than the previous approach that relied upon enforcement and compliance alone.

NRM Boards are keenly aware that the highest return on public investment in biosecurity is prevention. NRM Boards are looking to be much more proactive towards preventing the entry, sale and movement of new invasive species, which are not already established in South Australia.

Second to preventing the establishment of new invasive species, NRM Boards and local and regional communities regard biological control, commonly called 'biocontrol', as the next most effective and cost efficient strategies for the management of invasive species. For example, biocontrol of weeds such as Salvation Jane and pest animals such as rabbits together save

Australian agricultural industries about \$250 million per year. NRM boards are always looking to prioritise investments in new national biological control research projects.

With the production value of the South Australian sheep industry at \$1.5 billion, South Australian NRM Boards, particularly the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board, invest heavily in the proper management of our wild dog and fox populations.

Introduced and over abundant herbivores ranging from camels to rabbits and including kangaroos cause significant losses in primary production systems, damage habitats for threatened native flora and fauna, and place existing and new investment in revegetation and other on-ground activities at risk. For example, rabbits cause severe damage to the environment and primary industries, costing Australian agriculture over \$200 million per annum.

NRM Boards develop partnerships with all levels of Government, industry and community as well as coordinating and integrating management across regions, and involve both private and public land managers. South Australian NRM Boards integrate new and innovative technical, policy and management approaches.

In South Australia the management of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) is prioritised by NRM Boards due to their major economic, environmental and/or social impacts. Targeted strategic investment in managing these weeds will deliver long-term benefits throughout the state and the nation.

As Presiding Members of South Australia's NRM Boards, we acknowledge the importance of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) and recommend that it should continue to ensure its high degree of relevance with the regional NRM model. Together we will continue to work toward improving regional and national biosecurity effectiveness, capacity and integration.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Starick
Chair
Council of NRM Presiding Members