



**Media Release – Wednesday, 28 June 2017**

**SAMRC appoints Regional Chairs for South Australia and Southern New South Wales.**

The Southern Australia Meat Research Council (SAMRC) has appointed two new Regional Chairs for its South Australia and Southern New South Wales Regional Committees.

Jane Kellock, a mixed-farming producer from Farrell Flat in south-eastern SA, has been appointed Regional Chair for the South Australian Committee. Jane has been acting in this capacity since March this year, when Allan Piggott vacated the role to join the Board of Sheepmeat Council of Australia.

Andrew Rice, a mixed-farming producer from Parkes in the NSW Central West, has been selected to Chair SAMRC's Southern NSW Committee and will take over the role from Angus Hobson, who was selected to Chair of SAMRC's full council earlier this year.

SAMRC Chair, Angus Hobson, said the appointment of Mr Rice and Mrs Kellock follows an extensive selection and appointment process.

"Jane and Andrew bring a wealth of on- and off-farm experience, R&D knowledge and applied skills to their respective committees, and to SAMRC more broadly" Mr Hobson said.

"Jane has a long farming history in South Australia and would be known to many through her various roles in the sheep industry and within the Farrell Flat community. She holds leadership roles with the SA "Sheep Industry Blueprint" and "Sheep Advisory Group" initiatives, and is a member of MLA's Board Selection Committee and the SA LambEx Planning Committee."

In accepting her appointment to the SAMRC Regional Chair position, Mrs Kellock said she is "excited to be representing the SA Regional Committee and I look forward to continuing to talk to producers to find out their needs and priorities with regards to R&D and also working with the other Chairs and groups at a national level."

"Andrew similarly brings a valuable breadth and depth of farm and leadership skills to the SAMRC team. He is a graduate of Rural Science and the Australian Rural Leadership Program, and remains an active partner in his family's mixed farming business" Mr Hobson outlined.

"Andrew also has extensive off-farm experience, having managed the Southern Regional Grower Services portfolio for the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), as well as having extensive experience as a farm business and agronomy consultant" he added.

"It is a privilege to have the opportunity to become part of the SAMRC network" Mr Rice said in accepting the position. "Working with the Southern NSW committee, I look forward to engaging with livestock producers to better understand the regionally specific R&E needs to improve farm business profitability and sustainability".

"The skillsets and experience that Jane and Andrew bring to their regional roles will be an invaluable addition to the capacity within SAMRC. Importantly, their appointments will ensure SAMRC can continue to build a focus on R&D and extension/adoption issues at a regional level, including addressing the important interface between livestock and crop production common to many farm businesses across southern Australia" Mr Hobson concluded.

**Ends**

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*\* SAMRC is an independent, apolitical body comprising commercial producers and research, development and extension (RD&E) co-investors. SAMRC focuses on identifying and addressing RD&E issues that are impacting the red meat and livestock industries of south-eastern Australia, and*

*works closely with its northern and western counterparts (the North Australia Beef Research Council and Western Australia Livestock Research Council) in progressing national RD&E programs, and supporting Meat and Livestock Australia's Annual Project Call process.*