



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Vision: Resilient landscapes and land managers.

Mission: To improve farm grazing systems.

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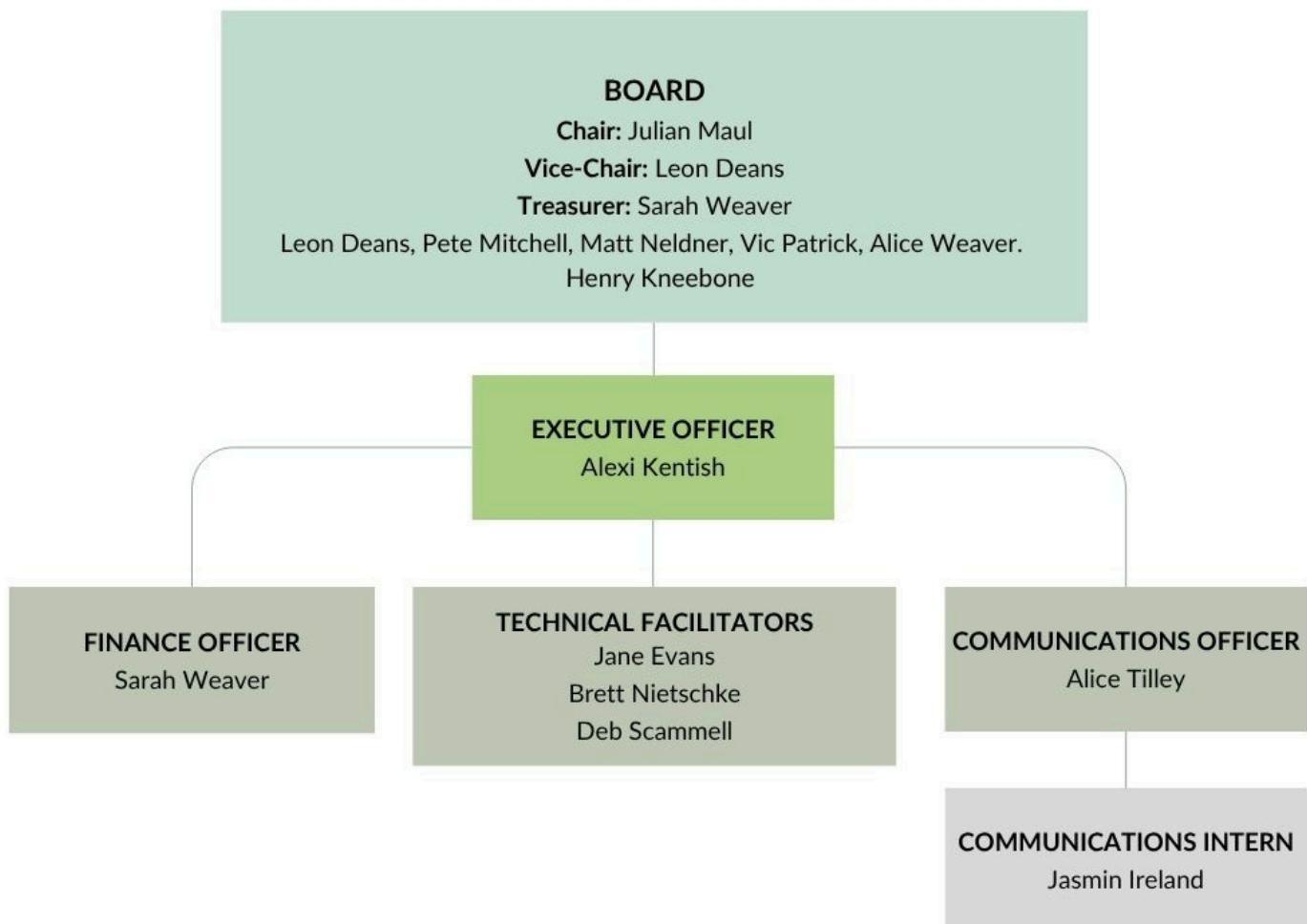
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2025 Snapshot

- 90+ attendees at BIGG Conference *Moving Towards Greener Pastures*
- Six in-person pasture and livestock events
- Six fact sheets published
- Recipient of Rural Media & Communicators SA/NT's 'Best Rural Communicator Award'
- Monthly BIGG Bulletin e-news reaching over 450 producers
- Over 40 dedicated sponsors and industry partners

ABOUT US

BIGG operates through a board, which consists of producer and industry representatives to provide strategic direction. The Board is supported by the Executive Officer (position removed October 2025), Finance Officer, Communications Officer and Technical Facilitators to manage and coordinate BIGG projects in conjunction with our funding partners. In 2019 BIGG became an incorporated association.



Communications

- Monthly BIGG eNews to 450+ subscribers
- Web: www.bigggroup.org.au
- Facebook: @barossaimprovedgrazing
- YouTube: Barossa Improved Grazing Group

SPONSORS

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...TAKE YOURSELF TO GREENER PASTURES



Grassland
Society
of Southern
Australia Inc

Thank you

To the many individuals within the BIGG community including producers, industry partners, and Angaston Ag Bureau for your ongoing support of BIGG with your time, knowledge and expertise.

HIGHLIGHTS



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
13 FEB 2025

MOVING TOWARDS
GREENER PASTURES



Over 90 people joined together for another successful BIGG Annual Conference on 13 February at Lambert Estate Wines. The full afternoon program considered the theme *Moving towards greener pastures* with speakers covering various topics to inspire and inform. Conference highlights included:

- Keynote speaker, renowned neuroscientist Allan Parker OAM provided insights and techniques on improving human interactions and cooperation.
- 2024 Nuffield Scholar Paul McGorman spoke on his experiences on the use of drones as a tool for spraying, spreading and seeding in difficult terrains.
- Mark Inglis of Thomas Foods International gave an overview of recent meat industry and market conditions.
- Sarah Weaver shared her research at the University of Adelaide into an alternative to conventional shearing. Anticipated to be achieved by an injectable, fibre weakening will allow for the safe and efficient removal of the fleece.
- The farmer Q&A panel facilitated by Talking Livestock's Deb Scammell featured livestock producers Michael Evans and Elke Hocking.
- Greg Campbell, former S.Kidman & Co Chief Executive, shared his fascinating experiences during his time with the renowned company as the dinner speaker.
- Trade displays.

Thank you to the 2025 conference sponsors Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, Livestock SA AgRi Silience & Sheep Industry Fund, and the SA Drought Hub. Thank you also to The Grasslands Society of Australia and The AW Howard Memorial Trust for giving five young persons in Ag the opportunity to attend the conference at no cost.



HIGHLIGHTS

Water innovations site tour

34 attendees visited Warren and Barbara Fargher's Flaxman Valley property on 18 March to view and discuss water technologies utilised by the Farghers. As part of the BIGG On-farm Water Innovations Project (Phase 1), the Farghers installed Hydrosmart and Farmbot remote cellular tank level monitor devices to manage water security more efficiently and sustainably. Hydrosmart representatives also attended to provided further information on the technology.



AgTech eID producer group, April 25

BIGG Pasture Trials

BIGG continued two long term pasture trials (that were initiated in 2024) through funding from the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund:

- Trial aims to determine the productivity of perennial based multi-species pastures (site located at Marananga)
- Trial aims to determine the pasture recovery benefits associated with deferred grazing and containment feeding (sites located at Flaxman Valley and Keyneton)



Pasture Walk, Oct 24

AgTech eID producer group

The AgTech eID Producer Group meet twice to further develop their knowledge of eID:

- In April with ten producers visiting Luke Michalaney's automated feedlot near Sutherlands.
- In June featuring Achieve Ag Solutions Nathan Scott who covered the collection and use of eID data.

Communications

The second Communications Internship was undertaken by University of Adelaide Agriculture undergraduate Jasmin Ireland. Jasmin gained on-the job training and mentoring.

BIGG was the recipient of Rural Media & Communicators SA/NT's 2024 Best Rural Communicator award. The award recognised a government or private sector campaign that successfully improves connections and relationships between targeted rural communities and organisations/ government departments or agencies.

HIGHLIGHTS

elD Advantage Producer Group

The first group session featuring Cousins Merino Services' Michelle Cousins was held on 14 August. Michelle covered equipment and tags, common issues, managing data and tools to assist with data management. This group will continue into 2026 with further information sessions and farm visits planned.

Pestivirus Workshop

Held on 22 October in Springton, the workshop featured pestivirus experts Professor Michael McGowan of the University of Queensland, and WA based Veterinarian Dr Enoch Bergman. Attendees received a comprehensive overview of how pestivirus spreads and its effects on herd health, followed by practical, on-farm strategies to mitigate risk and prevent future outbreaks.

Cost Benefit Producer Resources

BIGG partnered with Agrista's John Francis to analyse the return on investment from three recent BIGG drought resilience projects; the on-farm water technology, ewe containment areas and multi species pastures projects. The analysis were presented as a series of fact sheets that aim to assist producers in determining the potential costs and long-term benefits of implementing the tools and/ or strategies demonstrated in the projects.



Pestivirus Workshop, Oct 25

LOOKING AHEAD

- MLA PDS Weaning lamb management
- BIGG conference (Lambert Estate Wines) 19 February 26
- Lined catchment demonstration for the Barossa Ranges
- 2026 Communications Internship