



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

28/10/2008

Myponga workshop to reduce cattle risk to human water supplies

A workshop for landholders and residents of the Myponga Reservoir Catchment is being held on **Wednesday 5 November** to identify options for improving the quality of water in the catchment.

CSIRO revealed that young beef cattle with access to watercourses could contaminate those waters with pathogens, such as *Cryptosporidium*, which could cause illness in humans. In catchments that drain into South Australia's reservoirs it is essential that management strategies be employed to control stock.

A number of landholders and residents in the Myponga Reservoir Catchment have worked alongside SA Water, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and CSIRO on this very issue.

Since 2006, many landholders have been surveyed about their livestock management practices. This information was then used to run a scientific modelling program designed to identify which land management practices would be most effective at reducing water quality risks.

Results showed that keeping young beef cattle out of watercourses would have the greatest positive impact on water quality in the Myponga Reservoir Catchment.

CSIRO Principal Research Scientist, Dr Brett Bryan, says, "improving livestock management can offer further benefits for landholders, such as fewer incidents of disease, with associated increased weight gain and improved meat quality. These are in addition to important environmental benefits such as reducing pollution in local watercourses and protection of biodiversity".

It is now time for the community to inform government agencies on what they consider to be the most environmentally, socially and economically balanced management options to reduce the impact of beef calves on watercourses.

Landholders and residents in the Myponga Reservoir Catchment are invited to attend a workshop from **6pm on Wednesday 5th November** at the Myponga Sporting Club.

"This is an important and unique opportunity for the Myponga community to directly influence government policy on land management practices for the protection of water quality," stated Helen Fulcher, Chief Executive of the EPA.

Attendees are requested to register their attendance with the CSIRO. To register your attendance, please contact Marcia Sanderson (CSIRO) on 8303 8419.