



**FEED SHORTAGE:** Randall Crozier is reducing stock numbers at Anna Creek Station.

# Cattle station's big sell-off

LAUREN NOVAK

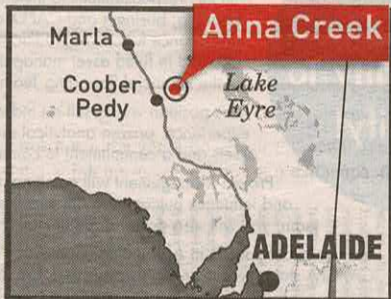
ONE of the biggest cattle stations in the world has been forced to reduce its stock by 75 per cent because of the drought.

Anna Creek Station in South Australia's Far North has reduced its stock levels from 16,000 head to 4000 since late last year.

Manager Randall Crozier said most of the cattle had been sold or sent to feedlots - some on Kangaroo Island and some in the South-East.

"We've been destocking the property down to a manageable size," he said. "It hasn't been good for a number of years but it's been a bit too long (without rain) this time."

Mr Crozier said he would have to consider selling more cattle if the dry continued. "It's no good having



cattle if there's no feed," he said.

Mr Crozier said more stations may be taking similar measures, while some might be "holding on" to stock in the hope conditions improved. SA Farmers Federation president

Wayne Cornish said many cattle farmers were "in the same boat".

"I've heard from a number of station owners who are doing exactly that," he said.

"They're searching desperately for reduction that is very hard to find because people within reasonable travelling distance are all in the same boat."

Mr Cornish said the high cost of transporting cattle to other stations or to selling yards ruled out this option for many farmers.

"They're a long way from anybody and anything and whatever they do with those cattle ... there is a lot of cost involved," he said.

**PAGE 47: Drought claims new victims**

# Worse to come in water crisis

SUSAN BRIGGS  
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S water problems could become at least seven times worse unless climate change was tackled, the author of a report on global warming said yesterday.

Former World Bank economist Sir Nicholas Stern said in his British Government-commissioned Review on the Economics of Climate Change that if temperatures continued rising, Australia's water woes would become more severe and coastal cities would be threatened by rising sea levels.

"You've had this long drought and what you are dealing with there is the temperature increase from the middle of the 19th century - where we normally measure it from - of 0.7C," he said. "You are talking about seven times that ... it is a real possibility under business-as-usual in about 100 years from now."

"It is not just seven times the problems, it is much more because these things get more and more severe."

The Kyoto Protocol on limiting greenhouse gases, he said, should be the first priority in addressing climate change.

"There's an urgency about this and what we should see is all countries coming in (on Kyoto)," he said.

"There are so many ways

## Bill errors continue

SA WATER customers were still being billed incorrectly, Auditor-General Ken MacPherson has found in his 2006 annual report.

Mr MacPherson identified a weakness in the customer service information system and said there was a high potential for incorrect billing of the company's 670,000 accounts.

He said steps by SA Water to check procedures "have yet to impact on the error rate, with the results of testing in 05/06 indicating the error rate has not decreased". A glitch in automatic software used to bill customers is blamed for more than 7000 incorrect bills last financial year.

where Australia could come in (on Kyoto) and I think would have so much to bring to the table." Sir Nicholas warned about the dangers of nations waiting for other countries to take action.

"What's important is that each country acts strongly."

Prime Minister John Howard yesterday strengthened his warning that Australia could lose jobs and investment if it placed unreasonable costs on industry to tackle climate change.