

BALLOT PAPER

2023 WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA ELECTION FOR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read carefully before filling out this ballot paper.

This election is for three independently elected members of the WoolProducers Australia Executive and is conducted in accordance with Clause 7.4 of the WoolProducers Australia Constitution.

All wool growers who are direct members of WoolProducers Australia or are members of a State Farm Organisation that is affiliated with WoolProducers Australia (which includes NSW Farmers Association, Victorian Farmers Federation, AgForce Qld, Livestock SA, Tasmanian Farmer and Graziers Association and WA Farmers) are eligible to vote.

To vote, please mark three boxes below. Voting is 'first past the post' so numbering an order of preference is not required. However, votes will not be invalid if boxes are numbered, or less than three boxes are marked.

Following is a brief *Candidate's Statement* that has been provided by each candidate, which you are encouraged to read prior to voting. Candidate's positions on the ballot paper are determined by alphabetic order, while candidate statements are in reverse alphabetical order..

Votes must be received by WoolProducers Australia no later than close of business, THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023.

Candidates

CARRIGAN, Helen

HOBSON, Angus

LUGSDIN, Stacey

RIDDLE, Simon

WARD, Skye

SKYE WARD: NOMINATION FOR WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



I, Skye Ward hereby nominate for the position of Independent Director of WoolProducers Australia.

As a wool producer, who has had a lifelong involvement with the wool and sheep sector, I am a passionate advocate for wool and the agricultural sector more broadly.

Committed to giving back to our industry and helping drive change, I am nominating as an Independent Director through my direct membership with WoolProducers Australia, as I strive to represent the interests of growers with a transparent and open approach.

Growing up on a merino sheep property on Monaro, I have been running a fine wool grazing operation on the Southern Tablelands, now based at Bungendore, for over 15 years. Together with my husband, Dave we have a strong focus on continually improving our genetics, in terms of wool quality without compromising on wool cut, while remaining committed to adopting best practice, sustainability and innovation.

I also bring an extensive corporate background to the table with more than two decades working across a broad range of areas within agriculture. These include agribusiness finance, economics, marketing, event management, community engagement, and media and communications. Currently, I run my own media and communications business working with clients to shine a light on the big issues shaping regional Australia and our rural industries.

It is my passion for wool, and agriculture, that has seen me become an active advocate and prominent voice in the sector. Earlier this year I was selected to travel to France as part of the National Farmers Federation (NFF) French Farmer Delegation and Engagement Tour to build French- Australian relations against the backdrop of negotiations around the EU Free Trade Agreement. This saw me represent the wool industry in meetings with French farmers, industry leaders and government, and lead discussions around animal welfare and the Trust in Australian Wool campaign.

I have also been involved in a number of marketing campaigns to showcase the superior qualities of Australian wool. Hosting international fashion designers, media outlets and influencers on our property, we have also been involved in advertising campaigns for the domestic, US and Chinese markets.

I bring board and industry experience as an inaugural board member, and later Vice Chair, of Tablelands Farming Systems, a grassroots farmer organisation focussed on the productivity, profitability and sustainability of farmers in the Southern Tablelands region. And was also an inaugural member of Local Land Services (LLS) Southern Tablelands Community Advisory group formed to provide input and advice to the South East Board on local issues.

I hold a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with first class honours from the University of New England and am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Company Directors Course. In 2022, I was selected as one of 12 women nationally to participate in the National Farmers' Federation Diversity in Ag Leadership Program.

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SIMON RIDDLE - INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR APPLICATION – WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA

My wife, Anna, and I own and operate Toland Poll Merino Stud, joining 1100 ewes, and a commercial merino flock, joining 1300 ewes, in North-east Victoria. I am passionate about, and heavily involved in the wool industry and want to protect our industry going forward with the challenges we constantly face. I believe that WoolProducers Australia do a fantastic job and are at the forefront of advocating for and protecting our industry.

I am currently a Director of WoolProducers Australia, and have been for the past four years, as the representative for the Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock Policy Council. My time on the VFF Livestock Policy Council is coming to an end, and with two years still available on my tenure at WoolProducers Australia, I am applying for an Independent Directors position so I can continue to fight for our industry with WoolProducers Australia.

I think that this is an exciting time to be in the wool industry, there is plenty happening in this space. The biggest thing I believe at the moment is traceability, for both our livestock and wool. If we do get an EAD outbreak, our industry comes to a stand-still and our markets close. To ensure that this has as little impact on our industry and markets as possible, the upcoming rollout nationwide of EID and database technology has to be handled and completed correctly. WoolProducers Australia are already playing a huge part in this and ensuring that it is done practically and correctly. As Victoria has done this since 2017, I am able to play a big part in this. This is the same with traceability of our wool, to ensure that we can still export that commodity if we are faced with the same circumstances.

The other big thing that WoolProducers Australia is at the forefront of is diversifying our wool export and early-stage processing. We need to ensure competition on our wool to ensure we as farmers are able to sell our wool at a price that is sustainable. We rely heavily on China, and this will not change, but with diversifying and assisting to set up wool processing plants elsewhere, we can provide competition and mitigate events such as the price drop of our wool through Covid, when only one market remained open.

Another big part of our industry is ensuring that we remain viable and enticing to the younger generation coming through, and ensuring we help and guide them as our next leaders. We hold regular days at our farm with educational facilities, such as Virtual School Victoria and The University of Melbourne, where we are able to discuss our industry and encourage the next generation to remain in this industry. It is up to us to ensure that the next generation is equipped with all the tools necessary to continue on our legacy.

There are too many things to mention that I have been able to be a part of with WoolProducers Australia, and that I wish to continue advocating for. And this is exactly why I am applying to finish my six-year tenure as an Independent Director, because I think that this is the best way that I can continue to fight for our industry and ensure that we remain sustainable, no matter what is thrown at us. I am confident that this is the best way I can continue to represent our industry successfully and help to guide our industry going forward in a progressive manner.

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STACEY LUGSDIN - INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR APPLICATION – WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA

My name is Stacey Lugsdin, a commercial wool grower located at Hay in the southwest Riverina District of New South Wales. I have been an Independent Director of WoolProducers Australia for the past 4 years and during the last 12 months I have held the position of Vice President, supporting the President and Staff to deliver policy and outcomes for the benefit of the Australian wool industry. I also Chair the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and represent WoolProducers on the National Farmers Federation Trade Committee. I am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and have Board experience in other industries.

As an Independent Director of WoolProducers, I will continue to advocate for those I consider to be the foundation of the industry, the grassroots wool grower, to achieve the best outcomes for Australian wool at a unified, national level.

Wool growers have faced many challenges over the past couple of decades: - drought, low wool prices, rising costs, shearing labour shortages, falling meat prices, welfare pressures from animal rights groups, foot and mouth disease threats from neighbouring countries, societal expectations on traceability and sustainability and unless there is proactive progression, we will continue to face these challenges into the future.

The Lugsdin family has been grazing in the Hay district for over 150 years and has faced many of the same challenges as every wool grower in Australia, I have lived these challenges over the decades as a commercial wool grower.

I manage our self-replacing Merino enterprise carrying from 3,000 to 6,000 head, depending on the season. I have been a wool classing teacher with TAFE NSW and understand the challenges faced by growers and classers to prepare a wool clip, that the world holds in the highest esteem.

I am a great believer in adoption of technology to improve efficiencies in our business to ensure that we remain wool growers into future generations. My family is heavily involved in the local wool industry in Hay and surrounding district. I joined the Sheep Show Committee 29 years ago as Secretary and now Steward the Flock Section.

It is my role as an Independent Director to ensure that wool growers are represented in discussions and decisions that impact their businesses. Everyone manages their businesses differently and "not one size fits all," therefore as an independent I will strive to ensure there are pathways for their views to be considered. Whilst some of the practices I implement on our own farm differ from those of other wool growers, I am mindful of the need to have the rights of wool growers protected, to ensure that all management practices and decisions are an individual choice and will advocate for them, putting aside my personal beliefs for the betterment and inclusivity of the industry.

My role as an Independent Director of WoolProducers Australia Ltd has been rewarding. I am passionate about wool, and my goal is to continue to give grassroots wool growers an independent voice, from a person who has lived the same experiences and to ensure that their voice is heard, and their rights protected. I hope you will look favourably upon my nomination for re-election as an Independent Director of WoolProducers Australia Ltd.

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ANGUS HOBSON - INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR APPLICATION – WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA

I am nominating for the position of Independent Director with WoolProducers Australia.

My vision for the Australian wool industry is a profitable and innovative rural sector that contributes to the financial and environmental wellbeing of regional Australia.

As the sixth-generation owner/manager of our medium-scale (15,000 – 20,000 DSE) commercial sheep and cattle business in the southern Monaro region of NSW, I have significant firsthand and applied experience in all aspects of livestock production, and the issues impacting commercial producers.

Our sheep enterprise is based on a self-replacing Merino flock (5,000 ewes joined), with a focus on high-fecundity, easy-care animals producing well-styled, fine (17-18.5 micron) wool under the SustainaWOOL GOLD program. We have been early adopters of a mules-free status, and invest heavily in objective measurement and selection, having implemented full-flock eID six years ago.

We are very much a family-run, commercially focused business. With operating debt to service, and living and farming in one of the more isolated and challenging environments in rural Australia, I understand – and work every day with – the real challenges impacting wool producers and graziers more broadly.

Prior to returning home full-time, I worked extensively in advocacy and agribusiness roles servicing the livestock sectors of Australia and overseas (New Zealand, USA) and have held a number of senior executive and leadership roles, including: Manager of Meat & Livestock Australia's research adoption and evaluation portfolio, CEO of the Red Meat Advisory Council, Director of Monaro Farming Systems and Chair of the Southern Australian Livestock Research Council (previously SAMRC).

I hold a First Class Honors Degree in Rural Science, as well as professional qualifications through the Macquarie Graduate School of Management and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

I believe my commercial grounding in sheep and cattle production, as well as senior management and governance experience in the broader livestock industry, can add valuable skills and perspective as a Director of WoolProducers Australia.

Angus Hobson

[Linkedin.com/in/angushobson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/angushobson)

Helen Carrigan – Application for Independent director, WoolProducers Australia



I have a passion for Agriculture and the positive power good advocacy can achieve. I believe we need to continue to raise the profile and importance our fibre and food have, and just as importantly continue to advocate that we as producers and farmers care about our animals, our people, and our environment. Therefore, maintaining our reputation as producing the best wool and sheep meat products in the world.

I grew up on the land with my family share farming around the Moree district. Over my career I have been involved in the cotton and wool industries. I have had my own spray contracting business, Helped with the inception of the Ground Sprayers Association and Women in Cotton (WinCott).

These days my husband Chris and I run a dual-purpose Dohne Merino flock. Until recently we lived in Northern NSW near Moree running on average 4500 ewes. Recently we sold the family property 'Welbon' and have moved the business to East Gippsland, Victoria.

In 2020 I joined Wool Producers Australia Board as the representative for NSW Farmers Association and was Chair and Deputy Chair of its Wool Advisory Committee. This year retired as the NSWFA SFO representative position in August 2023 due to the move to Victoria.

In 2022 I was a recipient of a Wool Producers Australia Leadership Scholarship to complete the Australian Institute Company Directors Course. The AICDC has proven invaluable as it has equipped me with a greater knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities company directors have in the roles they fulfil, management of the organisation, good governance and to its members.

Some of my previous leadership experience within agricultural organisations over several years have included:

- NSWFA Board member 2022-2023, stepping down due to our move to Victoria.
- Sheep Sustainability Framework Board Member – WPA representative 2021-2023
- NSWFA Wool Advisory Committee Chair and Deputy Chair
- NSW Wool TAG Committee Chair & National Wool TAG NSW Representative
- Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA) founding Board member & Company Secretary

I see a clear opportunity to continue my work advocating for the training and retention of shearers attracting people to our industry, Safer Shearing sheds, a fairer return for woolgrowers through diversification and embedding the Sheep Sustainability Framework.

I want to continue being involved as one of the decision makers for the industry organisation. I believe I will be able to represent all Wool Growers allowing me to express my views and advocate for fellow wool growers and for the greater industry.

With a love of the wool industry and a strong belief in our peak organisation, WoolProducers Australia, I wish to continue as your wool grower representative standing for an independent position.

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