

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA BOARD

Executive Summary

24 February, 2022 | Microsoft Teams Conference

Welcome

Meeting Opened

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:05am and welcomed attendees.

Presidents Report

The Board noted the President's report which was taken as read. The following key items were noted:

- Positive market conditions, including improved demand for wool
- Shipping issues
- Wool harvest labour shortage
- Wool industry roundtables
- Industry collaboration

CEO Report

The CEO took the paper as read with the following key areas covered:

- National Ruminant Emissions Reduction Program
- AHA
- MerinoLink
- Leadership in Ag – Raising the Baa Program
- Sheep Sustainability Framework

General Manager's Report

The General Manager's report was taken as read. The GM touched on a few key points:

- Product scheduling Submissions made to TGA
- Footrot vaccine
- Industry engagement
- Wool Traceability Project

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Report

The CEO spoke to the report noting the following key points:

- Unaudited 2nd quarter financial accounts
- 2021/2022 audit arrangements
- Membership fee update

Membership Issues

The November Livestock SA meeting considered the fact that some SA growers did not receive their voting papers, despite many receiving the WoolPoll voting packs.

Action: President to add Livestock SA and WA's concerns regarding missing voting papers to the concerns already raised through the WICP process at the 3 March WICP meeting

Action: WPA to offer to assist AWI in reminding levy payers to register as shareholders when they do their annual mailout to levy payers

Action: President to raise at the WICP that separate emails are sent for both the AGM Notice of Meeting and for director election voting (currently it is in the one email to shareholders)

Policy Determination

Health and Welfare Resolutions

PAIN RELIEF

WoolProducers Australia acknowledges the importance of undertaking husbandry procedures according to best practice while continually working to reduce, refine and replace these practices in response to research, development and regulatory outcomes. This includes the administration of products that minimise the severity and duration of pain when undertaking mulesing, tail docking and castration.

WoolProducers Australia is committed to:

- *Calling for pain relief to be made mandatory when mulesing to ensure that the procedure can be done in accordance with the highest standard of animal welfare*
- *Supporting initiatives that encourage grower adoption of the use of pain relief products when undertaking tail docking and castration:*
- *Investment in research, development and extension to enhance pain management strategies when undertaking painful husbandry procedures*
- *Extension and advocacy to inform growers of consumer expectations and emerging regulatory pressures*
- *Extension and advocacy to promote Australia's world leading sheep husbandry practices, including the use of industry driven verification systems to demonstrate the use of pain relief products to downstream supply chain partners*
- *Advocacy to facilitate a balanced regulatory environment (safety and trade).*
- *Supporting the registration of new pain relief products for pain management when undertaking painful animal husbandry practices*

No objections - CARRIED

Action: Review the pain relief policy at the face-to-face meeting planned for November, 2022

Trade Update - CONFIDENTIAL

The CEO outlined the background to the item, and informed the Board of the following key points:

- Trust in Australian Wool (TIAW)
- India Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- Revision of EU Legislation Animal Welfare
- Joint China Australia Wool Working Group
- Domestic processing ATMAC grant
- Shipping and logistics impacts on the wool industry

National Wool Declaration

Mark Grave from AWEX made a presentation to the Board regarding the process that has led to the current situation regarding the NWD.

The Board considered the proposed next steps for the NWD, noting that what was proposed was not consistent with our position. Once Liquid Nitrogen (LN) was declared on the NWD it was going to make the document complicated, but this is what the exporters wanted, despite the fact that the volumes of wool from animals treated with LN is very low.

The Board resolved not to support the proposed changes to the NWD and will write to AWEX informing them of our position, making it clear that we look forward to a robust review in 2023.

AWI

Industry Structure – CONFIDENTIAL

The CEO took the paper as read, noting the following points:

- While quite a lot has happened since the November meeting update, it has been largely unsatisfactory.
- We are awaiting the outcome from the Minister's office.

Wool Consultative Group (WCG)

The CEO sought feedback on any omissions regarding key priorities that were not raised during the WCG meeting under the five Strategic Pillars of the plan:

- Changes in Consumer Demand
- Shoring up the Supply Chain
- Environment and Climate Change
- Data Driven Decision
- Building Strong Partnership and Engagement

Action: The President to seek clarification of AWI's Strategic Planning process at the upcoming WICP meeting

Action: The Board to provide feedback on AWI Strategic Plan priorities

Wool Industry Consultative Panel (WICP)

The Chair drew the Board's attention to a number of answers that AWI had provided to questions that had been asked by WPA for the upcoming WICP meeting, including:

- Clarification of collaboration between AWI and MLA on the non-mulesing programmes being undertaken by both RDCs
- AWI's EU/UK strategy update
- AWI's USA/North American strategy update
- Response to the poor director election voter turn out
- WoolQ update
- Board Committee Structure update

Federal Election Priorities

The CEO spoke to a presentation, outlining a draft federal election platform from WoolProducers.

The platform is based on the five key pillars of the NFF \$100b by 2030 Roadmap, being:

- Pillar One: Customers and the Value Chain
- Pillar Two: Growing Sustainably
- Pillar Three: Unlocking Innovation
- Pillar Four: People and Communities
- Pillar Five: Capital and Risk Management

Action: CEO to circulate the draft election priorities to the Board for feedback

RWS Engagement

The CEO provided a background to this issue. The three options, with pros and cons presented were:

1. Put forward a case for RWS to consider Australia production practices
2. Publicly call out RWS on issues
3. Do nothing

The Board agreed that option 1 should be pursued and that they will be engaged throughout the process.

Action: CEO to develop an engagement plan with Textiles Exchange seeking input from the Board

General Business

The President opened the table for general business. The following items were noted:

Shearing issues

- 'Rough shearing' - the shortage of shearers currently has seen a small number of shearers not doing their job

properly.

- Wool handler shortage and the role of contractors to supply quality labour
- There is also concern about the relevance of the Award

Heat Stress

A request was made to add heat stress to the next meeting's agenda as a lack of shade or shelter for animals is increasingly becoming an animal welfare/rights focus area.

IWTO

The Chair spoke about a call from WIA seeking a Chair for the IWTO Growers Forum, which it was agreed to put forward a nomination. It was also agreed that WoolProducers would put forward a nomination for the IWTO Animal Welfare Working Group.

The Chair thanked the Board and attendees for their input into the meeting.

Meeting closed: 1:28pm
