

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA BOARD

Executive Summary

26 May 2022 | Michell Wool, Adelaide SA

Welcome

Meeting opened

The President opened the meeting at 9:01am and welcomed attendees.

Presidents Report

The report was taken as read and the President added the following points:

- Today Show appearance speaking about the potential positive impact of the India FTA on the wool industry. Noting that WPA worked hard on the Indian trade agreement, keeping it front and centre at the Ministers for Agriculture and Trade offices.
- AWI shearing innovation day where there was innovative machinery being demonstrated. The President commented that while some of the machines were not practical, it was great to see there is discussion on how to improve things.
- Logistics issues for the wool industry
- FMD in Indonesia
- Traceability

CEO report

The report was taken as read, highlighting the following issues:

Animal Health Australia

WPA held a number of meetings with AHA over the past few months covering a range of topics. including the

WPA will continue to seek a discussion between AHA, SPA and WPA to provide a detailed understanding of forward approach to the extension.

The CEO noted the Sheep Health Forum came about as a result of WPA approaching AHA. It was agreed to hold quarterly forums and on the back of that WPA agreed to sign the nomination for AWI to become an Associate Member of AHA.

Sheep Producers Australia

An increase in collaboration and engagement between SPA and WPA was noted. WPA CEO has presented to the SPA board last month which will be reciprocated with the SPA CEO scheduled to speak at next WPA meeting.

Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF)

WPA are about to sign off on the 3-year draft Strategic Plan. A full set of data across all metrics presented at the next report launch in July.

Three main projects under the SSF going forward are:

- The life cycle analysis of the sheep Industry
- Project proof - a survey (currently still open) of producers from MLA/AWI will feed into data.
- Fractional ground cover

Biosecurity issues

LSD detected in Indonesia is not of great concern given the low risk to sheep, however the FMD detection in early May has put the industry is on high alert.

mRNA Vaccine Development Proposal

The mRNA project is led by NSW DPI who has committed to present to WPA H&WAC along with SPA's Policy Council. WPA will look to join SPA's next meeting for this presentation, otherwise will send out a date claimer for another time

International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis

The conference will be held in Dublin 12-16 June. CEO is attending on behalf of WPA to learn of any new development on vaccines or other preventative health measures and also to keep a watching brief on the ongoing push by certain researchers to prove causation between Johnes and Crohn's disease.

General Managers Report

The report was taken as read, highlighting the following issues:

Industry Engagement

- WPA will attend the MerinoLink Conference (Wagga Wagga) 6-8 June and will have a WPA stall with AHA. The President is to present on Trust In Australian Wool (TIAW) and some of the biosecurity and animal health messaging under that along with the Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF).
- WPA will attend the Australian Sheep and Wool Show (Bendigo) 15-17 June with a similar stall and hopefully some digital material from AHA.
- WPA looking to attend transition to non-mulesed seminar (Young) 24 June to test the waters.

IWTO

Congress was delayed due to COVID. WPA looking to present on the TIAW and SSF and achieve higher engagement with Chinese audience. WPA will seek feedback into the Wool Sheep Welfare Working Group to achieve some positive outcomes with the aim of Chairing that group.

Agricultural Trade and Market Access (ATMAC) Grant

WPA have committed to provide a report to DAWE within this calendar year. The turnaround is a lot quicker than other projects, and DAWE have suggested WPA start discussions with them once we have an idea of what the next stages might to assist in providing an opportunity to be ready to progress to obtaining funding (subject to grant process).

It was noted that 30 translated copies of TIAW were distributed to a number of big brands in Japan including UNIGLOW after a presentation by the AWI Japan Country Manager at a WICP meeting February.

Policy Determination

Trade Update – CONFIDENTIAL

Papers were taking as read, highlighting the following issues:

Domestic processing

A few meetings have been held with the Steering Committee to determine a list of countries to take forward in terms of processing to see either greasy wool, scoured wool or combination of the two.

Indonesia

WPA is working with EY who are leading a government program called Katalis which is part of the Indonesia/Australian FTA announced a couple of years ago. Programs looks at Business-to-Business industry relationships rather than government-to-government. There are some relevant mutual projects in different industries up and running in Indonesia already.

AWI

Wool Industry Consultative Panel Update

Last WICP meeting did not deliver any outcomes. The TOR were presented for consideration but were not approved. More concise minutes have been produced, however nothing about non-mulesed was recorded in the minutes.

A presentation from the Product Development Officer in US on work being done in North America was given where they spoke of only demand for non-mulesed.

Action: Directors and SFOs to send successful initiatives through to WPA for inclusion in WPA updates to WICP

During the last meeting, WPA questioned the 'membership' noting those not represented nationally would be better placed at a state level group. The following wording has been since included:

"National woolgrower representative organisations (**or other appropriate organisations**) are invited by AWI to become members of the WICP".

It is unclear what 'appropriate' means.

University of Adelaide – Chemical De-Fleecing Presentation

Dr Sarah Weaver joined the meeting in person and Professor Phillip Hynd joined virtually to present on a chemical de-fleecing project they are working on.

WPA were supportive of ongoing funding for this project as there was a belief that there is potential in further investigation.

WCG/ AWI Strategic Plan Update

The WoolProducers Executive noted and discusses issues raised in the WCG minutes, including the Strategic Plan session

It was noted there was currently no operational details to the plan, and it was unclear whether WPA would have the opportunity to provide feedback before the strategy is endorsed.

Wool 2030 Strategy

The WoolProducers Executive noted the first draft of the Wool 2030 Strategy implementation report.

The initial implementation report reflects that consultation did not take place outside AWI. A lot of crossover with SSF was noted in terms of metrics reported on and presents like an AWI project implementation report, instead of an industry plan implementation report.

Post-election priorities / strategy

The CEO noted key areas will be raised with the Ministers for Agriculture, Trade and Home affairs ministers around:

- Overseas labour for wool harvesting sector. A WPA election priority was for the establishment of visa exchange program with UK, South Africa & South America.

The Minister for Trade will be important to ensure Indian trade is ratified. WPA will need to provide support to ratify quickly and ensure processes around European FTA keeps going.

WPA's concerns for the Minister for Agriculture will be around shearing, and their approach to animal welfare as well as live export- noting it is unacceptable to talk to the welfare groups first about animal welfare as industry are the ones investing in it.

Potentially WPA will also reach out to the relevant Minister regarding biosecurity as well as the Minister for Science and Innovation noting the coalition's Modern Manufacturers Scheme didn't include fibre, we need to ensure fibre is included (\$15 million investment promised).

General Business

Other Business:

- The President thanked the Youth Ambassadors for their contributions.
- GM raised FMD & LSD: touched on in meeting and is in the papers.

Action: circulate information on vaccines for Board to consider.

Action: include sheep traceability in next Board agenda.

- Carbon neutrality - growers need more information

Meeting closed at 2.30pm