

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA BOARD

Executive Summary

11 November 2021 | Zoom 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:

- Wool Connect Conference
- Industry Consultation
- Minister's Wool Roundtables
- EU Trade issues
- Wool harvesting labour shortage

1.3 CEO Report

The CEO took the paper as read, outlining her year-in-review style report undertaken each November as being a good reflection on what WPA have achieved in the last 12 months and the number of issues WPA are across including the amount of work that goes into what WPA does as an organisation.

Key areas covered:

- Trust in Australian Wool campaign and Sheep Sustainability Framework
- Wool Traceability project
- Wool harvesting labour shortage
- Trade
- PEF
- Establishment of the WPA Post-farm gate EAD Working Group
- NWD
- Industry consultation
- WoolPoll
- AWI Director elections
- Submissions made over the last 12 months:
 - DAWE's RDC Consultation
 - Minister Littleproud's Wool Roundtable on Consultation
 - EUs Consultation on Apparel and Footwear Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules
 - Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Review into Definitions of Meat and Other Animal Products
 - AWEX consultation on the National Wool Declaration Review
 - NASC consultation on the Australian Wool Selling Program Review of Recess Weeks
 - Draft National Feral Pig Action Plan: 2021-2031
 - AgVet Chemicals Branch of DAWE's Independent Review of the Agvet Chemicals Regulatory System
 - 2021-2022 Pre-Budget Submission to the Treasury Department
 - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement

General Manager's Report

The General Manager's report was taken as read. The GM touched on a few key points, noting much of his report

covered health and welfare related matters.

- Pain relief scheduling, including correspondence received from a vet
- Pain relief

Action: WPA GM to request a copy of the report from Professor Hutchinson.

- Wool Traceability project

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Report

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

- Audited financials to be discussed at AGM and audit management letter
- Future audit arrangements
- The new AHA Service level agreement (SLA)
- Unaudited 1st quarter financial accounts

Membership fees

The Board held a lengthy discussion, agreeing to a revised membership fee structure

Policy Determination

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
- Revision of EU Legislation Animal Welfare
- European Union's consultation on the Apparel and Footwear Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR)
- Domestic processing ATMAC grant

Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF)

There was a delay in appointing a new chair. A small subcommittee of the SSF board continued a formal process for chair recruitment where it was unanimously decided that Verity Morgan-Schmitt will be the new Chair. An announcement is imminent. Part of that role is to populate the steering group.

National Ruminant Emissions Reduction Scheme

Ron Glanville, Helen Scott-Orr & Mike Nunn Joined the meeting and presented on the National Ruminant Emission Reduction Scheme followed by a Q&A session.

AWI

Industry Structure – CONFIDENTIAL

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

- The next roundtable convened by the Minister will be held later in the month
- WPA's submission well received by others in industry as they were unaware of the breadth of work that WPA undertakes, along with governance arrangements that are in place
- The Health and Welfare Advisory Committee model has demonstrated considerable leadership, considerable effort to bring people together and considerable effort to achieve consensus among a wide variety of groups

Action: The WPA Chair will keep the Board informed of any progress on this matter

WoolPoll

The CEO noted the WoolPoll result of 1.5% and noted the amount of time and money AWI put in advocating for 2% will need to be raised with them at some point.

WPA Elections

The Chair congratulated Independent Directors John Hassell, Stacey Lugsdin and Steve Harrison (Vice President) for standing and being re-elected.

The Chair also encouraged SFOs Directors to consider others that can be put forward to have contested elections in future.

AWI Director Elections

WPA put a policy out backing recommending consideration of five candidates.

It was noted people had not been receiving voting papers in the mail.

Action: WPA Chair to request AWI to resend the links to the voting papers so people can go on the website.

Workforce update

The CEO noted the work going on behind the scenes on workforce issues, particularly in the shearing or wool harvesting sector of the last few months.

Farm Safety Policy

The Chair noted the proposed draft policy and opened the table for comments and approval.

MOTION:

That the WoolProducers Board approves the draft Farm Safety Policy as living policy to be refined and enhanced over time.

WoolProducers Australia encourages woolgrowers to protect all workers, including family, full-time, part time, casual and contract labour by:

- *Eliminating hazards, which means getting rid of things that can kill or hurt workers. If that is not possible then you must minimise the risks, so far as is reasonably practicable.*
- *Choosing the safest equipment for your farm's needs and ensure it is well maintained.*
- *Choosing the safest chemicals and closely follow the manufacturers' instructions.*
- *Ensuring all workers and visitors know about the risks on the farm and how to manage these.*
- *Ensuring workers have the skills to work safely, for example when handling animals and using farm equipment.*
- *Closely supervise new and inexperienced workers.*

NFF Workforce Presentation

Ben Rogers joined the meeting and presented on two main workforce issues:

- The treatment of casual employment, particularly the review of the modern awards and the way they deal with casual employment.
- Dedicated Ag Visa

Responsible Wool Standard

The CEO spoke to the paper which came out of a meeting with Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock Council attended by WPA's GM & CEO. The following points were raised:

- There are some issues that make it inconsistent with Australian best practice e.g. that you are not allowed to poison predator animals.
- IWTO are engaging with RWS and AWI are also proposing to engage with them, WPA will monitor developments.
- There needs to be global equivalence in the application of standards. If Australia RWS producers have to use pain relief, the same requirements should also apply to South African and South American producers. If it can't meet the benchmark, it shouldn't be certified.

Action: CEO to develop a strategy and commence engagement of the Textile Exchange on the Responsible Wool Standard.

General Business

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

NWD

A definitive update could not be provided as discussions are ongoing at the time of this meeting.

Action: WPA will invite Mark Grave to present at the February Board Meeting after clarity is received from AWEX.

Centre for invasive species membership (CISS)

The CEO suggested a director attend meetings in order to justify ongoing membership costs.

Action WPA CEO to provide further information to Brett Smith offline to assess whether he has capacity to represent WPA.

AWEX Bale Labels

Concerns were raised that there is no benefit to growers with the electronic bale labels.

Some of the recommendations from the wool traceability report will be aligned with these comments. Many of the report's recommendations are interdependent in order for the value of individual investments to be realised. WPA need to remain cognisant of this issue and need to make it very clear when using the report to hold industry service providers accountable.

Brokers blending lines

WA Farmers had been contacted by a grower with concerns around wool that was classed out as tender, but his broker put it back into the main lines.

The Chair noted this was raised earlier in the year in regard to the same specific grower, but that this time it was more for the industry as a whole. He mentioned that this behaviour is inconsistent with the code of practice.

Action: WPA Chair to speak to the President of the National Council of Wool Brokers to see if they can improve consultation with growers before any amendments are made to the specimen.

Director Succession

The CEO encouraged discussion around succession given the WPA President's last term, noting staff involvement as inappropriate.

Action: CEO to develop a matrix chart of Director's terms for tabling at the February Board meeting.

Carbon

Cotton growers expressed their dismay that wool and cotton having a worse carbon footprint than nylon. Along with the methane issue, it is something we need to do something on.

Ed thanked the Board, acknowledging the years' hard work and wished all a happy Christmas.

Meeting closed: 1:45pm