

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

9:00am-4:05pm (AEDT) 12 November 2025² Belconnen, Canberra

Presidents Report

The presidents report was noted

CEO's Report

The CEO's report was taken as read with the following matters addressed through questions from the committee.

- Sheep Sustainability Framework - The SSF Board is in the process of signing off the annual report which is due to be released later in November
- NCWSBA and ACWEP Meetings - Monthly meetings with brokers and exporters to discuss industry issues appears to be working well

GM's Report

- International Sheep Veterinary Congress (ISVC) - WPA and AHA convened a 1-hour panel session during the congress to spotlight the role of vets as farm consultants.
- National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy - A workshop was recently held in Melbourne with producers, to develop the inaugural annual workplan of the revised strategy
- Alternate OJD Vaccine - During the ISVC there was concern amongst sheep Veterinarians in relation to declining OJD vaccination rates, potentially leading to an explosion of OJD in years to come.

Member Updates

Each WoolProducers Policy Advisory Council (PAC) Member discussed the industry issues affecting woolgrowers within their respective membership base and / or industry network

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC – CURRENT STATE OF THE WOOL INDUSTRY

The following industry representatives joined the meeting to present on their respective roles and major issues impacting the wool industry in the post farmgate space, and answered questions from the PAC:

- Scott Williams, Executive Officer of Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors (ACWEP)
- Robert Herrman and Alastair Calvert, Executive Director and President of the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia (NCWSBA)
- David Michell, Chair of Wool Industries Australia (WIA).

The PAC considered the post farm gate presentation to help inform discussion around the current state of the Australian wool industry and identified priorities and action items that WoolProducers and its members can collectively undertake to assist growers and the industry, including:

- Encourage farmers to become familiar with their cost of production
- Focus on on-farm productivity
- Building transparent communications
- Diversification of markets

HEALTH AND WELFARE

- An update was provided on WoolProducers work to progress registration of the Custom Footrot Vaccine. WPA held a meeting with the IP owners and prospective research institutions and will continue to work on developing a Request For Proposal (RFP) document. This RPF will be used to go to market for the cost of the pre-registration component as well as conformation of an entity that has interest in registering and manufacturing the vaccine.
- The committee received an update on the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) Steering Committee, commencing a 5-year review of the program in 2024. WPA requested a cost-benefit analysis be undertaken as part of the review given that the benefits the program delivers are likely to drop significantly due to the ban of the export of live sheep by sea in 2028 as well as planned removal to the attestation of

blue tongue virus freedom on export health certificates for greasy wool to China.

- The Committee considered support for additional funding for the Foot Health Project. It was agreed that WPA will not support additional funding at this point in time due to lack of transparent reporting on the value of previous funding investment provided. WPA will consider additional funding contingent on further details being provided on expenditure to date and future additional proposed expenditure.

MATTERS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

Future Flock Strategy

Motion Carried

Due to lack of information and clarity of purpose the PAC support WoolProducers not holding any official role in the Future Flock Strategy, but consideration of the provision of information if requested on a case-by-case basis.

Policy Document Review

The Committee considered the current WoolProducers Policy document and split into two groups to provide feedback. The executive noted that updating the policy is a big piece of work, so suggestions will be prioritised to a manageable number for the February 2026 PAC meeting.

POST FARMGATE UPDATES

Trade:

- There have been focused consultations on the impacts of US tariffs on agricultural trade. At a recent NFF Trade Committee meeting, WPA, along with the Cotton industry highlighted that the fibre industries do not sell direct to the consumer market like other agricultural commodities, and that the nature of tariffs in a complex supply chain, where wool can move through multiple countries before reaching consumers is having a significant impact on the textile sector.
- CEO and GM met with DFAT and DAFF to discuss trade diversification and mitigation strategies against a range of trade risks include tariffs. The meeting was well received.
- Eqwool (Cotton/Wool blend) recently held a launch event at a textile expo in Dhaka, Bangladesh last week. The WPA CEO was invited, however the invitation from Austrade was last minute, so the CEO was unable to attend.
- An NFF and Austrade delegation travelled to Indonesia and Brunei this week, which the CEO was also invited to attend, but due to timing was also unable to attend.

AWEX:

- AWSS has had a little more traction through a new initiative, however it is early days, and more information will be sought at the next meeting.
- EMI equations will soon have the certified wool (RWS, AWSS etc.) included to improve accuracy.
- Total auction offerings are down approx. 5.5% from last year, however testing is down approx. 12.5%, meaning old wool is still hitting the market.
- Issues going forward include poor lambing % this year, a lot of ewes going to slaughter. So next year's volumes may see further decline with existing reserves currently hitting the market and

IWTO:

- The IWTO Roundtable will be held in Lesotho on 25 & 26 November. WoolProducers are not sending any representatives but will attend working group meetings virtually.
- The CEO continues to Chair the Growers Working Group.
- The next IWTO conference will be held in China in 2026.

AWTA:

- There has been media around the old building in Kensington being up for sale. Currently the sale is open for expressions of interest, however current interest is well below the asking price.
- Year on year wool testing volume is down 9% from the previous year, which was 21% down on the previous year.
- Staff shifts have been reduced from two to one shift per day in order to save operational costs

NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on 18 - 19 of February 2026