

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

WoolProducers Australia Policy Advisory Committee

9:04am-12:51pm, 27 February 2025 | Via Zoom

Presidents Report

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

- Current unfavourable industry conditions – low wool price and volumes; poor government policies and climatic conditions in some states are putting pressure on the Australian wool industry
- Activities since the release of the '[Factors Impacting the Australian Wool Price](#)'
- The need for rationalisation of the wool industry to reduce costs to producers

CEO's Report

The CEO expanded on her report, highlighting the following points:

- Participation on the Avian Influenza (AI) CCEAD After-Action Review workshop – reviewing the process of the 2024 AI outbreak
- Industry body Strategic Planning processes
- Unfair and onerous fees being charged to producers regarding the roll-out of EID tags for sheep
- Sheep Industry Health and Welfare Trust Fund update

Action: Committee to advise WoolProducers if they become aware of rogue operators in the supply chain charging producers fees associated with the roll-out of electronic tags

GM's Report

The GM expanded on the following points from his report:

- Custom footrot vaccine update
- The GM has been invited to speak at the [2025 IWTO Congress](#) on the Australian health and biosecurity, including the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and how it contributes to stability of the global wool supply chain.
- WPA Post-Farmgate EAD Working Group Strategy session
- NSW LLI Training
- Safemeat Partners update

MATTERS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

Committee Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Priorities

The Committee discussed tangible actions and projects that could be undertaken in the next 6-9 months to pursue issues and opportunities identified in the November workshop, including:

- Footrot
- Animal Rights Groups
- Flystrike
- Worms
- Pain Relief

Action: GM to follow up with AHA about footrot activities already being undertaken and establish if there is alignment with the work that has been done.

Action: GM to invite NeXtgen Agri to provide an update either out of session or at the Sheep Health and Welfare, and Biosecurity Forum.

Action: Follow up whether Extinosad aerosols product has low level pain relief in.

Wool Sheep Health, Welfare and Biosecurity forum Discussion

The Committee discussed the development of a Wool Sheep Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Forum and provided the suggestions for the inaugural forum.

Best Practice Lamb Marking Project – Preliminary findings

Dr Emily Buddle from the University of Adelaide joined the meeting to provide a project update on the Best Practice Lamb Marking Project. The Committee noted the update and discussed the workshopping process to be undertaken by Dr Buddle including supporting the development of key messaging as a key outcome from the project.

Live Export Update

The Committee noted the update on the live sheep export ban.

- WoolProducers in collaboration with NCWSBA called an [industry crisis meeting](#) in Fremantle in November, 2024
- Donate a Bale sale raised \$30,000 for the Keep the Sheep Campaign
- WoolProducers provided a [submission](#) and gave [evidence](#) at the hearing into the [NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Impact of the Phase-Out of Australian Live Sheep Exports by Sea](#)
- WoolProducers initiated a wool-focused forum as part of DAFF's co-design consultation workshops rolled out across WA
- A Validation Workshop was being held on the same day as the WPA meetings to review feedback from meetings and develop measures to spend the \$45.5m transition package
- No money to date from the transition package has 'hit the ground', including money for mental health support

National Wool Harvesting and Training Advisory Group (NWHAT)

The Committee noted the information presented and the President expanded on the main outcomes of an NWHAT meeting he attended on 31 January:

- NZ animal rights expose into the shearing industry has put pressure on the Australian industry
- Animal welfare training proposal
- Contractor/grower engagement checklist
- Visa arrangements for overseas workers in the wool harvesting sector

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

AWI Updates

AWI Woolgrower Consultation Group (WCG)

The committee discussed the less-than-ideal format of the meeting held 11 February 2025, which did not enable industry representatives to provide strategic input into AWI's three-year strategic plan.

AWI Woolgrower Industry Consultation Panel (WICP)

The President provided an update on the unsatisfactory meeting held 12 February 2025 and sought feedback on the proposed strategic plan pillars and challenges and opportunities presented, the Committee agreed that there needs to be robust dollar figures and an outline of planned execution and outcomes behind each pillar.

WoolProducers will provide a written submission into the draft strategic plan once received.

Australian Wool Traceability Hub (AWTH) Update

The Committee noted the update on AWTH activities including:

- Substantial increase in [PIC declaration rates](#) in WA
- WPA drafted a joint paper with AWTA that will be presented at the IWTO Congress in May
- Entering the PIC in the [WoolClip](#) app is the gold standard as it enables real time traceability and on-farm generation of custody rather than from the time it hits the core line in the broker store.

Trade

- Proposed outbound Australian delegation to Vietnam in April
- Aus-UAE FTA – inclusion of sustainability chapter
- DFAT briefing on new US administration

AWTA

The President provided an update on AWTA issues:

- Impact of live sheep export ban on Western Australia lab

AWEX

The Vice-President provided an update on AWEX activities including the following points:

- New AUS-MEAT partnership
- Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme

Wool Industries Australia (WIA)

The President and GM provided an update on WIA activities

- Proposed wool industry forum
- WIA membership fees

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Nil
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