

# **Australian Wool Selling Program (AWSP) Review of Recess Weeks**

WoolProducers Australia (WoolProducers) are the peak national wool body representing wool growers. Our membership is comprised of the industry's commercial, superfine and stud breeding sectors. WoolProducers is nationally representative through our State Farming Organisation members and three democratically elected Independent Directors.

WoolProducers works closely with the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment on key issues such as animal health and welfare, biosecurity, pest management control, natural resource management, drought preparedness, emergency animal disease outbreak preparedness, and industry development, including research and trade.

WoolProducers' work also includes the provision of advice to Animal Health Australia and State and Federal Governments on behalf of the wool industry on a day-to-day basis through representation on national animal health and welfare committees.

WoolProducers appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Australian Wool Selling Program (AWSP) Review of Recess Weeks.

WoolProducers believes that there should be provisions made in the AWSP for one week's recess to accommodate the Chinese New Year.

Through the most recent meetings of the Joint China-Australia Wool Working Group, WoolProducers are aware that the Chinese trade have made repeated requests for the Australian industry to allow a sales recess at this time to enable Chinese workers to celebrate this significant cultural event.

Whilst understanding that the Chinese New Year period is usually a high-volume time for wool being sold at auction following the Christmas recess, along with a desire of the Australia industry to have more continuity in sales to reduce pricing volatility, we believe that given China is our most significant trading partner, that serious consideration must be given to this request.

Further, as relations between our respective governments seriously diminish as trade tensions escalate in recent times, WoolProducers believes that now would be an ideal time for the Australian wool industry to allow a one-week sales recess for Chinese New Year, as a sign of good-will demonstrating the importance of our mutually beneficial relationship with the Chinese wool trade.

To counter this additional recess, WoolProducers propose that one week is taken off the annual mid-year three-week recess.

For example, using the tentative version of the 2021/22 Australian Wool Selling Program, either Week 3 or 5 could be re-classified as a selling week, while Week 31, commencing 31 January could go into recess to accommodate the Chinese New Year of 1 February, 2022.

WoolProducers thanks the National Auction Selling Committee for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue, and as always are happy to discuss our submission directly with the Working Group.

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## WOOLPRODUCERS RECOMMENDATION

1. That NASC reduces the current mid-year three-week recess by one-week to enable the introduction of a one-week recess in wool auctions to accommodate for the Chinese New Year

