

Health and Welfare Advisory Committee

Executive Summary

8 November 2023 | 11:00am | Hybrid

The Committee meeting was conducted in a hybrid format with some WoolProducers board members in person at the Mercure Hotel, Belconnen, ACT. All other board and committee members attending virtually.

Matters arising

Committee members to write to state jurisdictions, the Sheep and Goat Traceability Taskforce chair and other Peak Industry Councils regarding the double tagging start date of 1 Jan 2027 for all animals leaving a property (regardless of year of birth).

GM to Share the final National Sheep Health Monitoring Project 2022-23 Annual Report when published.

General Manager Report

GM presented a report, highlighting the following key information and work since the last committee meeting:

BIOSECURITY PROTECTION LEVY

WPA lodged a [submission](#) to the DAFF consultation process, making the following points:

- WPA is strongly opposed to the “levy”, it is a tax
- Producers will have no say on how the funds raised will be spent
- Woolgrowers will pay 2.4 times the average compared to other commodities
- There is a lack of government awareness of how much wool growers already contribute to the national biosecurity system (transaction and wool levies go to AWI and MLA to fund health and biosecurity work, a portion of transaction levies go to AHA; grower contributions through state or local-based charges or rates for state biosecurity and animal health programs; substantial enterprise-level investment in biosecurity and animal health that ultimately contributes to the National biosecurity system. Additionally, growers contribute as taxpayers and users of imported goods

BEST PRACTICE LAMB MARKING PROCEDURES PROJECT

The committee were reminded of the [Pain Relief Decision Support For Lamb Marking](#) resource following several requests from growers and grower groups seeking more information on pain relief products at lamb marking.

FOOTROT

WoolProducers are again leading efforts to restore grower access to the Custom R-Pilus footrot vaccine through full registration with the APVMA.

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATION (NVD) REVIEW

WoolProducers continues to advocate that the NVD needs to remain a simple food safety and traceability document and not be co-opted to address other quality assurance schemes or welfare issues.

Sheep Health and Biosecurity

NATIONAL SHEEP HEALTH MONITORING PROJECT (NSHMP)

Rob Barwell (AHA) presented on the [NSHMP](#). An annual report (22/23) should be available within the coming weeks.

NATIONAL SHEEP INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY STRATEGY (NSIBS)

NSIBS activities largely remain on hold. The future resourcing for NSIBS remains uncertain pending an internal AHA review of extension services and programmes. The NSIBS steering committee has met several times in recent months and proposed that an NSIBS forum be held in Feb / March 2024 involving industry and state government representatives to identify opportunities and gaps in relation to NSIBS to inform the NSIBS beyond 2024

EAD Preparedness

The committee were provided with a brief overview of progress of the [Phase 2 ATMAC project- Enabling domestic and diversified wool processing](#). A public release of the project findings is planned for late January / early February 2024.

Traceability

SHEEP AND GOAT TRACEABILITY

An update was provided on the [Sheep and Goat Traceability Taskforce](#). WoolProducers continues to advocate for national harmonisation in the NLIS for sheep and goats.

WoolProducers have been active in calling for a consultant to be engaged to ensure that the revised NLIS Standards for Sheep and Goats provide a focal point (i.e. minimum requirements) for national harmonisation and deliver necessary benefits to growers.

WOOL TRACEABILITY UPDATE

The committee received a presentation from AWTA and AWI on the Australian Wool Traceability Hub (AWTH).

General Business

LIVE EXPORT UPDATE

WoolProducers recently co-hosted delegation of producers, transport and shearing representatives from WA to Parliament House in early September. The delegation spoke directly to MPs regarding the direct impact the proposed export ban will have on the sheep, wool and auxiliary industries as well as rural communities.

The independent panel, appointed by the government to report on the impacts and transitional support in relation to the proposed ban sought an extension on the deadline for delivery of their report to the government. The report has now been submitted and is currently undergoing a Ministerial and Cabinet review processes. The Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forests has undertaken that the report will be released publicly, whether in full or in part, however a date for such a release has not been provided.

Meeting closed 2:30pm (AEDT)
