

Health and Welfare Advisory Committee

Executive Summary

6 March 2024 | 9:00am | Hybrid

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

Matters arising

Pain Relief Policy - All committee members to hold a detailed discussion with their constituents to inform tangible action at the May 2024 H&WAC meeting.

All committee members to ensure their respective states communicate their preference to WPA in relation to double tagging of sheep with the implementation of mandatory EID.

GM to invite Mark Ferguson to provide an update at next committee meeting.

GM to follow up Alison Lee regarding the definition of virulent footrot in Victoria.

General Manager Report

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

FOOTROT

WoolProducers are again leading efforts to restore grower access to the Custom R-Pilus footrot vaccine through full registration with the APVMA. It is hoped that progress on registration can commence in late March 2024.

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

DAFF will soon launch a [consultation process](#) on the revised Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

AUSVETPLAN WOOL ENTERPRISE MANUAL

The review of the [AUSVETPLAN Wool enterprise manual](#) was finalised in December 2023. The technical review process endorsed by AHA Industry Forum is complete and. Final endorsement from AHC is expected by mid-March 2024.

VICTORIAN ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION BILL

WoolProducers has been working closely with VFF on the consultation process for the Animal Care and Protection Bill. WoolProducers will provide a submission emphasising issues of particular importance to wool producing enterprises.

NATIONAL WILD DOG ACTION PLAN

Victorian reviews of the use of 1080 and the review of 3km protection buffer zones extending into National Parks and state-owned land pose a real threat to wild dog control activities in Victoria.

Sheep Health and Welfare

BUYERS VIEWS ON MULESED WOOL

WoolProducers continues to liaise with DAFF and AWI on the [Buyers Views on Mulesed Wool survey](#) report. WoolProducers does not believe that recommendation 2.2 of the 2021 review of performance has been met. WoolProducers will continue to ask that work continue to fulfill recommendation 2.2 in full.

BEST PRACTICE LAMB MARKING PROJECT

WoolProducers and Sheep Producers Australia are working on a joint project to define best practice lamb marking and identify barriers to adoption. This project will assist in the review of existing industry resources and inform the development of future related extension programs.

Biosecurity and EAD Preparedness

ATMAC PHASE 2

The committee were briefed on the content of the [reports](#) following the ATMAC Phase 2 work (Domestic and diversified early-stage wool processing)

BIOSECURITY PROTECTION LEVY

WoolProducers is [continuing efforts to oppose the governments proposed Biosecurity Protections Levy \(Tax\)](#).

Traceability

SHEEP AND GOAT TRACEABILITY

WoolProducers participated in the SAFEMEAT Advisory Group meeting on 5 March 2024 and were successful in ensuring the Sheep and Goats NLIS Standards were not endorsed in order to try and reach harmonisation. A process will take place in the coming months to resolve issues that are preventing the unanimous approval and adoption of NLIS Standards for Sheep and Goats amongst SAFEMEAT members.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL TRACEABILITY UPDATE

WoolProducers has arranged several meetings with state and federal government representatives to determine the functionality requirements to enable the AWTH to support an Emergency Animal Disease response and future export certification needs.

General Business

TRUST IN AUSTRALIAN WOOL AND IWTO

Work is currently underway to revise the [Trust In Australian Wool](#) campaign content and supporting material in-time from a re-launch at the IWOTO Congress in Adelaide from 15-18 April.

LIVE EXPORT UPDATE

An update was provided on the MV Bahija that was ordered back by the Australian government enroute to Israel due to terrorist activity along route. It was noted there was a disconnect between commercial interest, biosecurity assessment and risk, compounded by varying levels of authority by the Commonwealth government.

Motions / Concerns

Shearing Award and Animal Welfare

A motion was discussed to leave a "minimum 8 hours" and remove "overnight" in the new standards planned for the Shearing Award which currently sets out sheep off water for 12 hours and feed for 20 hours prior to shearing. The Committee noted that this motion along with any requests or comments from other organisations would be passed on to the National Wool Harvesting and Training Advisory Group to discuss and decide.

Footrot and Availability of Vaccine

The committee discussed regarding an increased prevalence of footrot and access to an effective and readily available vaccine, suggesting a national sheep and goat foot health education and management program and an aligned approach. Concerns were raised in relation to the removal / amendment of a formal definition for virulent footrot in Victoria. Following the meeting it was confirmed that the Victorian definition of virulent footrot remains unchanged i.e. >1% Score 4. As confirmed by DJPR- Victorian Government.

Meeting closed 1:00pm (AEDT)
