

# Health and Welfare Advisory Committee

## Executive Summary

11 August 2021 | In person/Zoom conference

---

### Meeting Opened

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:32am and welcomed all attendees, making particular note of the new members, AWI, Merinolink, SRS Genetics and the two new WoolProducers Youth Ambassadors.

## WoolProducers service agreement with AHA

### General Manager Report

GM presented a report, highlighting the following key information:

#### [National Feral Pig Action Plan \(NFPAP\)](#)

A [NFPAP stakeholder update](#) was attended on 5 July 2021. Committee members were encouraged to register and attend these updates if interested.

#### [National Wild Dog Action Plan \(NWDAP\)](#)

GM is continuing to pursue reporting on resources being coordinated under the plan (FTE and financial).

Concerns relating to the practice of hanging dead wild dogs from trees and road signs was discussed along with the need to ensure that industry actions do not erode social license.

Concerns were also raised in relation to the impact of domestic dogs on livestock, particularly in town / city borders and peri-urban areas.

#### [Sheep Reproduction RD&E impact assessment](#)

WPA convened a meeting of the Steering Committee on 28 May 2021. The Steering Committee acknowledged the advantages of responding to and addressing recommendations collectively.

#### [Lamb Marking / Aversive Procedures Partnership](#)

There is a proposed partnership between WPA, SPA, AHA, AWI & MLA to work together to collectively address issues relating to lamb marking and aversive procedure best practice.

#### [APVMA- Emergency use permit for Custom R-Pilus Footrot vaccine](#)

The GM updated the Committee on the current situation and correspondence between WPA and APVMA to date.

WPA recently [posted a blog](#), which was effective in raising awareness of the issue and gained good mainstream media attention.

#### [Animal Health Australia- Industry Forum – Emergency Animal Disease Working Group](#)

The group is currently stocktaking lessons learned from EAD response and simulation activities, in parallel to a similar process within government. Through the Industry Forum working group and AnimalPLAN Steering Committee (of which WPA is also a member) it is hoped that these two processes can leverage one another to improve EAD preparedness.

#### [Animal Welfare Advocacy](#)

WPA has briefed members of a European Government delegation on *mulesing and pain relief usage in Australian sheep*, in consultation with Jo Grainger, Australian Agriculture Minister-Counsel, Brussels. Supporting contributions were delivered by the COV of Victoria, Andrew Whale of Livestock Logic, AWEX (SustainaWOOL), AWI and Prof. Bruce Allworth of Charles Sturt University.

The briefing was well received and provided the context around the necessity of mulesing (and other husbandry procedures) in certain situations. An understanding was established of differing production systems and the necessity

for differing husbandry practices to achieve optimal animal welfare outcomes, emphasising the importance of considering this when developing animal welfare regulations.

Given the success of the briefing WoolProducers is continuing to engage with the DAWE / DFAT to provide further briefings to interested trading partners.

#### [Sheep Health Project](#)

The project has reached the end of the current business plan cycle and AHA are commissioning a review.

## Market access support

### **Wool Traceability Project Update**

GM provided an update on the project. Phase 1-4 of the project were noted as complete, including a stocktake of existing traceability systems, a gap analysis and development of recommendations to enhance existing systems.

The recommendations will be taken to two online industry workshops involving all industry service providers, to be held on 13 and 20 September 2021. A final report should be publicly available late November / early December.

## Biosecurity

### [NSIBS Update by AHA](#)

AHA were unable to attend the meeting, so WPA GM spoke to the paper providing an overview of activities undertaken by NSIBS staff based in SA, NSW and Tasmania.

### **Sheep Traceability update**

An update was provided on the work being undertaken by the *National Livestock Traceability Enhancement Working Group (NLTEWG)*, which was formed under the National Biosecurity Committee.

Key work underway within the NLTEWG includes identifying governance measures that can align and harmonise national livestock traceability systems and the national implementation of EID tags in sheep.

### **WPA Post Farmgate EAD Working Group**

The working group met at the end of July to discuss progress against Exercise Argonaut recommendations, assess progress against the wool industry EAD strategic priorities and scope opportunities to improve EAD preparedness and response activities.

### **Exercise Argonaut Update - Work Plan**

The GM outlined current work being undertaken including the AUSVETPLAN Wool Enterprise Manual review and work underway with AHA to develop communications resources for use in the event of an EAD outbreak.

## Special Initiatives and Standing Agenda Items

### [Trust in Australian Wool Update](#) and [Sheep Sustainability Framework Update](#)

The CEO briefed the Committee on current status of both initiatives with launches in March and April respectively. The Trust In Australian Wool campaign has already materially assisted in briefing various trading partners on matters relating to animal welfare and sustainability.

The Sheep Sustainability Framework will assist in telling the story of progress and innovation within the Australian wool and sheep industry in future years and provide guidance for future policy setting.

### **Standing Item – Pain Relief Discussion**

The Chair gave a verbal background to the Committee on the growing importance of pain relief related issues, including use during castration and tail docking.

### **APVMA – Ag and Vet Chemical Regulation (Footrot Vaccine)**

Rachel Chay – Executive Director, Registration Management at APVMA presented an overview of the APVMA and registration processes to give some context to decisions made in relation to the custom footrot vaccine.

WoolProducers will continue to liaise with APVMA to pursue pathways to re-establish grower access to the vaccine.

### **Special Initiative – Samantha Wan – Youth Ambassador Presentation**

The outgoing WoolProducers Youth Ambassador Samantha Wan gave a presentation to the Committee on her journey through the Youth Ambassador program.

## General Business

### **Project Proposal – Parasite control and dung beetles**

The committee was briefed on a project proposal to optimise parasite control product use and maintain healthy dung beetles (phase II). The relatively modest project was unanimously supported by the Committee.

### **CSIRO -Numnuts trial**

Committee members were encouraged to participate and support the trial.

### **Western Australian Pain Relief workshop**

WoolProducers will pursue opportunities to contribute to, and / or participate in an upcoming pain relief workshop to be held at UWA.

### **Tri-solfen and shearing cuts**

Issues were raised in relation to the use of Tri-solfen on shearing cuts. Under current registration it can only be used for shearing cuts under veterinary prescription, with treated animals subject to a 90 day withholding period.

### **Nationally consistent footrot definition**

Issues were discussed in relation to the varying definitions of virulent footrot between states and the need to harmonise this.

The Chair and CEO noted this was an issue in the past with no national agreement being reached. Subsequently in 2018 AHA convened a Footrot Working Group.

### **Meeting Closed**

**The chair closed the meeting at 2:32pm**