

# Health and Welfare Advisory Committee

## Executive Summary

22 February 2023 | Vibe Hotel Canberra Airport and Zoom

Chair opened the meeting at 10:50am.

### Matters arising

GM to develop a comprehensive draft sentience policy proposal for discussion at the next H&WAC meeting.

Rob Barwell to obtain a detailed breakdown of Footrot project proposal costs and include wording on availability of IP.

WPA executive to follow up with Angus Ireland to discuss the *Pathways to low emissions in the Australian sheep industry* report and work with AWI on a policy pathway forward for the wool industry.

### General Manager Report

GM presented a report, highlighting the following key information:

#### AUDITS OF IMPORTED PLANT BASED STOCKFEED MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

Discussions with DAFF have identified that while audits of plant based stockfeed facilities sending product to Australia are still being undertaken the method and frequency of audit has changed. GM will continue to liaise with DAFF and the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association to ensure that mitigation of risk on the potential EAD incursion pathway remains appropriate.

#### BEST PRACTICE LAMB MARKING PROJECT

WPA continue to work with AHA to progress the joint project proposal with SPA relating to the adoption of best practice lamb marking.

Material is being developed to support grower decision making in relation to pain relief at lamb making for the Autumn 2023 lamb marking season.

The broader project is expected to be underway in April 2023, with Phase 1 to conclude in Q1 of FY 23/24.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOOL TEXTILE ORGANISATION (IWTO) ROUND TABLE

GM Attended the IWTO Round Table in Nuremberg, Germany in Nov / Dec 2022.

The Sustainable Practices Working Group discussed several frustrations from across the supply chain in relation to certified Integrity Schemes (CIS), including RWS. Frustrations related to inconsistencies and inefficiencies. The group will engage with these groups in an effort to address these issues.

The Wool sheep Welfare Working Group received a briefing from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on their consideration of the adoption of the Five Domains model for animal welfare.

The group also received a briefing on a concept titled "Welfare adjusted life years" index. While this concept only currently applied to animal disease there is some concern that this concept could be extrapolated to husbandry procedures. Such a move would be very subjective and potentially compromise lifetime animal welfare outcomes. WPA GM continues to lobby this working group to foster collaboration in the wool sheep welfare space.

### Biosecurity and Market Access

#### NWD REVIEW AND WOOL TRACEABILITY

WPA sought committee views on the draft response for consultation relating to NWD review 10.0.

Consistent with previous submitting WPA will:

- Seek the removal of the Liquid Nitrogen classification (supported by insignificant declaration rates)
- Seek consideration of the removal of CM
- Caution that the NWD remain within its remit and not expand to cover other husbandry procedures.

In discussing wool traceability, it was reported that PIC transmission rates are now stable at around 50% of all bales offered for sale. In order for this rate to continue to improve to a level sufficient to support an EAD response and associated export certification the following pathways may be considered in the future:

- Making NWD or PIC component of the document a condition of sale
- Making PIC a condition of testing (AWTA wouldn't test until PIC in place) for re-handed wools, the PIC would be the unique EDI network ID from the wool warehouse.

### **SHEEP EID IMPLEMENTATION**

Discussion took place to determine progress of implementing eID for sheep across all states. The discussion identified that inconsistencies and unanswered questions remain a concern for all growers.

WPA CEO informed the committee that concerns had been raised about the Sheep and Goat Traceability Taskforce and its ability to deliver on the Terms of Reference.

In recent weeks the Taskforce had been used as a scapegoat for state and territory governments to shift blame to one-another.

WPA CEO has sought an urgent meeting of the Taskforce to address these issues.

### **IWTO BIOSECURITY FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

WoolProducers continues to lead the development of a framework to support the trade of wool from Emergency Animal Disease (such as FMD) impacted areas. The framework requires the temperature to be monitored within wool warehouses, using a minimum of 4 probes which must remain above the target temperature for 24 hours. It is expected that the finalised framework will be ratified at the IWTO congress in May 2023.

### **EAD RESPONSE LEVY**

WoolProducers are undertaking activities to pursue the establishment of an EAD Response Levy to ensure industry's ability to meet cost sharing obligations in the event of a significant EAD incursion.

WPA have commenced discussions with AHA, AWI and DAFF and a rigorous consultation process will commence in 2023 to establish a response levy. Such a levy would be set at zero and only be invoked (increased to a level greater than zero) if appropriate in the case of a serious EAD.

## **Youth Ambassador**

Emma Turner presented her policy proposal to the Committee on improving research and productivity for wool producers in the pastoral zones of Australia.

The Committee commended Emma on her proposal noting very valid concerns echoed by members and that Emma had demonstrably applied learnings from the Youth Ambassador Program. Opportunities will be pursued for Emma to engage with AWI on her policy proposal.

## **Sheep Welfare**

### **SHEEP SENTIENCE**

The Committee discussed issues relating to the development of policy acknowledging and explicitly defining sheep sentience. The committee unanimously endorsed the recommendation for the development of a comprehensive draft policy proposal for discussion at the next H&WAC meeting in May 2023.

## Sheep Health Update

### SHEEP HEALTH MONITORING PROJECT

The committee were provided with an overview of the 2021-22 Annual Report noting:

- More abattoirs are coming online with the programme.
- A forecast 9 million sheep will be inspected in the current financial year.
- Producer engagement with data is expected to increase with ISCs development of the MyFeedback system

## General Business

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Discussion took place on the need for industry to ensure that fair carbon accounting methodologies applied to livestock (specifically GWP\* in preference to GWP100)

### PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS

Discussion took place on the importance of informing growers of pain relief options for the forthcoming lamb marking seasons, particularly with the rescheduling of various products and associated re-branding.

**Meeting closed 4:05pm (AEST)**

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