

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

8.30am – 12.56pm (AEDT) 19 February 2026, Online

Presidents Report

The President's report was noted

CEO's Report

The CEO's report was taken as read with the following matters addressed through questions from the committee.

- Positive engagement with SFO members in recent times
- Concerns with the progress and manner of consultation on the development of the WA Roadmap as part of the Transition Package on the back of the live sheep export by sea ban
- The Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel genesis and purpose

GM's Report

- AWTH submission into the DAFF Traceability Grants, including the letter of support provided by WoolProducers
- Increase in PIC declaration rates for wool, which is now >90% of the clip, up from 20% three years ago
- Safemeat Advisory Group Cattle Standards Review and the suggestion of alignment with the Sheep and Goat Standards made by WoolProducers which disappointingly was not supported by any other Safemeat member
- Concerns with the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, which will be provided in a submission to DAFF

Member Updates

Each WoolProducers Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Member discussed industry issues affecting woolgrowers within their respective membership base and / or industry network.

A thorough discussion was had with the PAC on the WA Roadmap and the Future Flock Strategy (FFS). A number of State Farm Organisations expressed concerns over the development of the FFS. WoolProducers reiterated its position of supporting the development of a robust national strategy for the sheep and wool industry, however the lack of governance, proper process and realistic timeframes around the FFS meant that WoolProducers can not support the FFS.

It was also raised that there is an unacceptable misrepresentation being peddled by the FFS that Wool Industries Australia (WIA) is involved/supportive of the FFS. This misrepresentation needs to be corrected, as the WIA Executive have resolved that they have no formal role in the FFS.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

NAMP funding review update

An update was provided on the ongoing funding issues regarding the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP). This will be discussed further at AHA's Members Engagement Week in March.

Foot Health Project

Representatives from AWI, NextGen Agri and Murdoch University provided an update on the Foot Health Project and answered ongoing unresolved queries from the PAC

The Committee recommend that the WPA Board support the additional project funding request contingent on WPA being appropriately acknowledged and based on the stop/go contingency that if 25 sires are not recruited for the cull ram challenge, the extra funding is not required.

National Wild Dog Action Plan: Future & Funding; & 12 February 2026 Meeting Outcomes

Representatives from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and the National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) provided an update the Committee on developments in relation to the future and funding of the NWDAP.

Following deliberations the Committee determined that they are supportive (pending WPA Board endorsement) of further discussions relating to funding with a focus on equitability of funding partners, and pursuing opportunities to secure additional funding partners.

Sheep Blowfly Sterile Insect Technique (Kangaroo Island) Additional Funding Request

Representatives from SARDI and Adelaide University presented to the PAC and provided an update on the Sterile Insect Technique project taking place on Kangaroo Island since August 2025 and discuss additional funding proposals.

The PAC resolved that WoolProducers provides in principle support for additional funding contributions for the Sterile Insect Technique for Sheep Blowfly – Kangaroo Island Project, pending feedback from AHA regarding their recommendation or advice.

MATTERS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

AWI Update

WICP

- The WoolProducers CEO represented the organisation at the recent WICP meeting.
 - It was reconfirmed that the WICP is the consultation mechanism between grower bodies and AWI, and as such it is appropriate that questions continue to be asked in this forum
 - More positive sentiments are being experienced along the supply chain and in major markets
 - DAFF presented on the Wool Poll Policy Setting Review

WoolPoll Policy Setting Review

- The CEO provided a breakdown of voter allocation and the cost of WoolPoll, noting:
 - WoolPoll is being reviewed due to the legislative regulatory instrument used to conduct WoolPoll having ceased. A new instrument to carry out the next WoolPoll is being sought, triggering a review.
 - The 2024 cost to AWI for conducting a WoolPoll every three years was \$400,000. As such, part of the current review is considering a number of cost reduction options (e.g. holding WoolPoll every 5 years and amending voter eligibility to reduce the number of people to send voting papers to)

Feedback from the Committee on the following 3 questions:

Question 1: Should a three-year Wool Levy Poll cycle be re-established or should a different cycle, such as a five-year cycle, be considered?

Question 2: Which voting system should be used for the conduct of the Wool Levy Poll?

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions about how to improve the operation of the Wool Poll Panel?

Policy Document Review

The GM developed a priority table of policies outlining the level of complexity of policy (review or update), and the level of ability within WoolProducers' current resources to advocate for each policy.

It was noted that WoolProducers is unable to become overly involved in certain issues, so while we may develop policy, at times there is limited capacity to invest staff time and therefore limited capacity to advocate effectively.

WoolProducers staff will now prioritise policies with a view to provide proposals at future PAC meetings for a reprioritisation process

POST FARMGATE UPDATES

Trade:

- Despite being announced as a successful recipient, WPA are seeking more details from Austrade for funding proposal outcomes from the Trade Diversification Network (TDN) and the Accessing New Markets Initiative (ANMI).
- It is likely WoolProducers will receive funding for sending a delegation to run a one-and-a-half-day seminar in conjunction with SaigonTex 2026 in collaboration with the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association.
- WoolProducers secured \$50,000 funding to run an Australian Natural Fibre Seminar in Bangladesh in collaboration with the Australian Cotton Shippers Association.
- WoolProducers will seek AWI and Woolmark Company contributions to both the Vietnam and Bangladesh

initiatives

- WoolProducers does not anticipate any change for the wool industry in regard to the EUFTA. WoolProducers are maintaining a watching brief on developments to ensure that additional sustainability or animal welfare trading conditions do not negatively impact our industry. Australian wool currently enjoys tariff and quota free access to EU markets. DFAT officials have advised that negotiations on these chapters are closed and aren't being reopened during this round of negotiations. WoolProducers will continue to monitor the space.

AWTA

- An update on potential relocation was provided.
- 90% of producers in WA use express testing.
- AWTA will seek a new chairperson to commence in October.

AWEX:

- The NWD review is underway. The chair has been selected and there are six applicants for the Industry Consultative Committee (ICC) which should be finalised by the end of February 2026. Formal calls for submissions to the NWD will go out around April. The WoolProducers CEO advised that they had been approached to provide an EOI for the ICC and has done so.
- Auction offerings are down about 2.5% on this time last year. About 17% of current sale offerings are last year or previous year tested.

IWTO:

- The next IWTO is being held in China on 24-26 June 2026, a discounted grower rate is available.
- The grower working group is getting off the ground.
- Monthly meetings with brokers and exporters have been positive which has strengthened the relationship. The group has developed the Young Professional Program which will help a small cohort of young professionals develop skills and be exposed to all facets of industry along with being funded to attend IWTO Conferences together.

WIA:

- A meeting was recently held to consider consultant findings regarding the development of an industry mulesing strategy
- There is now agreement from AWI, AWEX, AWTA, WPA, NCWSBA and ACWEP on the development of a mulesing strategy to be led by WIA.

NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on 13 May 2026 in Sydney
