

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA BOARD

Executive Summary

3 May 2023 | Hybrid

Welcome

Meeting opened

The President opened the meeting at 12.45 and welcomed attendees.

MOTION:

That the WoolProducers Australia Board ratifies Makaela Knapp as a new Director, representing Western Australia Farmers Federation

Presidents Report

The report was taken as read and included the following points:

- India trip
- Meetings have been initiated regarding a pathway forward for the mandating of pain relief prosecutions in Victoria.
- President and Director Smith participated in a wool forward-selling webinar.
- Southern Aurora Markets is seeking a woolgrower representative to sit on their forward selling committee once a year. The chair encouraged Directors to reach out if they would like to volunteer for this role.
- Truck drivers and government are keen to legislate a standard for loading ramps. A recent accident resulting in serious injury in Victoria has likely expedited this legislation.

CEO report

The CEO report was taken as read with the following verbal additions:

- Sheep Sustainability Framework governance arrangements
- National Wool Harvesting and Training (NWHAT) Advisory Group (Wool TAG)
- Traceability

General Managers Report

The Board noted matters from the GM report were covered throughout the meeting agenda.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES

Director Elections

The Board noted the paper, and that electronic voting is being researched for use in the September elections.

The CEO highlighted that there will be two Independent Director vacancies by the call for nominations in September, noting that while all three independent positions require re-election each year, two will already be vacant.

The Chair requested Directors inform their SFOs about upcoming elections and encouraged consideration of the succession plans.

Policy Determination

Health & Welfare Resolutions

MOTION:

That WoolProducers endorses funding of “The genetics of foot health in the Australian sheep industry” project proposal using AHA (wool levies) on the basis of the following:

- 50% of the project funding comes from AWI
- 25% of the project funding comes from sheep wool levies held by AHA

- i. If sheep meat levies held by AHA are not forthcoming, consideration can be given towards 50% of the project funding comes from sheep wool levies held by AHA
- c. 25% of the project funding comes from sheep meat levies held by AHA
- d. That the project proposal is amended to clarify the following:
 - i. Every effort will be undertaken to maximise the number of studs participating in the trial with a limit of 2 sires per stud. This limit shall only be exceeded when every reasonable effort to engage additional studs has been exhausted.
 - ii. That all project information is publicly available, with the exception of disclosure of individual stud / sire identification information should participating studs not wish to have those details disclosed.

MOTION:

That WoolProducers endorse the adoption of the following policy within “Animal Welfare” of the WoolProducers policy document:

Sentience

WoolProducers acknowledges that sheep are sentient beings that can feel and perceive the world around them through both positive and negative experiences.

Legislation and regulation to safeguard animal welfare must be based on peer-reviewed evidence informing the scientific understanding of sheep sentience.

In acknowledging sheep sentience, WoolProducers maintains that:

- Sheep **do not** have the same feelings as humans
- Sheep **can** be owned for legally permitted activities (farming and associated permitted husbandry procedures as prescribed by relevant legislation)

AHA - CONFIDENTIAL

The Paper was taken as Read. The CEO expanded on the following items:

- Wool Industry Levy Reserves
- Project Management Office process
- Strategic Roadmap
- 2023/24 Annual Operating Plan

Trade Update

The papers were taken as read with the following key points raised:

- India - the CEO expressed the importance of the Indian trip in setting deep foundations for fruitful relationship.
- NFF EU Delegation – the CEO noted how well the Trust in Australia Wool Booklets were received by wool representative.
- ATMAC - the GM talked to the paper, outlining that the steering committee met to consider the tenders received and have gone back to the two applicants with a set of questions for additional information.

WIA/IWTO

The President, CEO and GM are attending the upcoming IWTO Congress in Kyoto, Japan.

WPA continue to push for a productive output from the IWTO sheep welfare working group after having raised concerns on multiple occasions.

General Business

Nil. Next Meeting: 10 August, 2023

Meeting closed at 2.45pm