

Steve Harrison
Independent Director

It is always a busy time when we are required to submit an annual report and this year is no exception. As in most places in Australia, seasonal conditions have posed problems with keeping sheep dry for shearing and crutching although in Gippsland we would welcome some more rain.

Firstly I would like to thank the people who voted for me in our independent elections held a year ago. As I have mentioned previously, it would be beneficial to our committee if more people stood for election. In the most recent election, there were four nominations for three vacant positions. Our peak council is unique in that we have nominated independent directors as well as state based directors. This brings extra voices to our board with extra skill sets.

The time and dedication shown towards WoolProducers Australia (WPA) by our president and vice president is testament to the progress that this organisation has made. Our national profile has been raised amongst our peers and general members.

The staff at WPA do an outstanding job in their roles and I sincerely hope that they continue into the future. We are responsible for the accountability of woolgrower levies and I believe we are doing exactly that.

The Animal Welfare Committee has come a long way since it's initiation and to have other wool groups such as the Australian Stud Merino Breeders Association, Australian Woolgrowers Association and Australian Superfine Woolgrowers Association and the most recent addition being the Livestock Contractors Association allows all the information to be disseminated back to these organisations.

I am part of an AWEX industry consultative committee that this year, amongst other topics, has discussed the removal or retention of Ceased Mulsing (CM) from the National Wool Declaration (NWD) form. WPA is one of many stake holders around this table and after two face to face meetings and a very long teleconference a decision is pending.

The media training that was offered to directors earlier this year was hugely beneficial to me personally as my experience in this area was rather limited.