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During the past twelve months, VFF Livestock has focused on many initiatives related to the wool industry including a call for a \$20m Federal Government commitment to on-going funding of the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre program, which was due to run out of funding in June 2017. The funding will be used to continue the CRC's role of co-ordinating Australia's battle to control the wild dog, fox and other damaging pest control programs. We will continue to highlight the importance of this research and the impact of invasive species on farm production.

The VFF Livestock Group is the key stakeholder for sheep and goat producers in Victoria regarding electronic identification. The VFF has called for a five year investment by government in ensuring the cost of eID tags to producers is kept at \$0.40 or lower for this period with realistic action levels initially and zero financial impact on farm as the eID system matures. The VFF also believes any livestock identification system should be nationally consistent. The VFF will work hard on behalf of producers in negotiating with government to ensure the best possible outcome.

VFF Livestock is working with the State Government on a communications strategy for potential outbreaks of exotic diseases, and is pushing to have standstill protocols delivered. Furthermore, VFF Livestock is seeking a longer term State Government commitment to the state's biosecurity funding. The 2016 State Budget lifted biosecurity funding from \$60m to \$80m, but only for one year.

The Livestock Health & Biosecurity Victoria project provided events and information for all Victorian livestock producers through our Bendigo based extension team. VFF Livestock will look to grow this project in 2017, taking on management of further livestock industry health and welfare initiatives.

VFF Livestock is working with industry in pushing to engage the whole supply chain in ensuring a coherent approach to animal welfare. The State Government's initiative for updated animal welfare legislation is a concern for producers and the VFF will ensure the outcome of this work will be practical and cost effective. This work compliments our proactive approach to developing market signals to encourage the use of pain relief by calling for the National Wool Declaration (NWD) to be a condition of sale similar to the National Vendor Declaration for Livestock transactions. This would ensure full reporting of the Australian Wool industry mulesing status and allow absolute correlation between the related premiums and discounts within the industry. The NWD is a valuable tool to display to the supply chain that the Australian industry is working towards creating market signals to ensure those producing a sustainable product are appropriately compensated by the market.

Looking forward to 2017, the VFF will roll out a Q fever awareness campaign targeting not only the livestock supply chain but also rural communities. The campaign will consist of a hard copy and online information toolkit, Q fever material to be presented at industry events and field days, and targeted advertising in regional newspapers. The VFF will use this to complement the national industry approach to fighting for a subsidised Q fever vaccination program.