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WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA 2016 REVIEW

I, Charlie Merriman, became an independently elected Director of W.P.A. in 2005 and have thoroughly enjoyed the years since. The learning curve was very steep on how this wool producers representative group works through the problems which consistently occur in our industry. I am very thankful to both present and past Presidents, Committee and staff who have coached and coerced my thoughts and decisions so that the correct outcomes to situations could be arrived at.

I became interested in W.P.A. because of the O.J.D. management program which in my thoughts was not conducive to the financial and practical benefits for wool producers or the merino sheep and its long term viability. While the process has been a very drawnout and expensive, I believe it is now in the situation where most of the Australian Woolgrowers can manage their livestock for their own profitability. All states have sheep trading practices which most graziers can easily comply with, except South Australia who still maintains border restrictions.

Other committees that I have worked with are the Federation of Australian Wool Organisation (F.A.W.O.) which ran a very successful International Wool Textile Organisation (I.W.T.O.) world 2016 conference in Sydney. Several members of WoolProducers Australia attended, of which I was one, and I was involved in the Grower (World) group and the Sustainability Committee.

Other Committees I am involved with deal mostly in the sheep health and welfare programs, and wool policy group.

WoolProducers Australia has a very large role for our wool producer levy payers in these important areas of sheep health and welfare, and wool policy, liaising with State and Federal Governments and Associated Bodies, such as Animal Health Australia, Meat Livestock, Sheep CRC and A.W.I.

I may not have ever considered representing Australian Wool producers if there were not this very innovative process that W.P.A. have which allows independently elected committee members. This process gives opportunity for three members per election who will then work alongside the State Farm Associations Representatives, which is a very successful process.

As I will be not seeking re-election at the end of 2017 I urge all interested woolgrowers to consider representation on the W.P.A. Committee and I am very willing to assist any woolgrowers who wish to be involved in WoolProducers Australia.

CHARLES MERRIMAN

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12-12-16.

