

# WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA HEALTH AND WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

13 AUGUST 2024 | HYBRID / ZOOM

## MATTERS ARISING

WoolProducers to invite government representatives to brief the Committee on disease surveillance and export certification at the November H&WC meeting.

WoolProducers to investigate the difference in record retention requirements for sellers and producers in the revised NLIS standards.

WoolProducers to circulate summary of Health, Welfare and biosecurity priorities to the Committee.

WoolProducers to advertise for the Youth Ambassador program in the new calendar year.

Committee members to liaise with WPA CEO/GM to identify suitable opportunities for WPA to present to their respective members.

## GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The following major issues were discussed as part of the GM report.

### LIVE EXPORT

WoolProducers maintains total opposition to the ban, however with legislation having passed parliament, attention must now turn to ensuring that industry receives a fair support package.

Committee members are encouraged to join the Keep the Sheep/Keep Farmers Farming rally due to take place on 10th of September in Canberra.

### AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

WoolProducers lodged a [submission](#) in relation to the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS). The submission strongly reiterated that AAWS must be based on 'science-based evidence'. WoolProducers emphasised that any strategies going forward cannot be based on ideology.

### SHEEP SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK ANNUAL REPORT

The Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF) Annual Report was released on 7 August 2024. Reports of the SSF can be found [here](#).

### CUSTOM R-PILUS FOOTROT VACCINE

WoolProducers continues to pursue grower access to the vaccine. Committee members were encouraged to share clear messaging on the work WPA is undertaking as well as progress made to date back to their organisations.

## ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Recently appointed AHA CEO, Dr. Samantha Allan joined the meeting and provided the committee with an overview of her top priorities for the next 12 months. These include strengthening member relationships, rebuilding AHA organisational culture and developing the next AHA 5-year strategic plan.

Rob Barwell provided an update on the National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy outlining a workshop process that will take place with various stakeholders to inform tangible action for the new strategy.

## BIOSECURITY AND EAD PREPAREDNESS

### TRACEABILITY UPDATE – SHEEP & GOAT

The sheep and goat traceability taskforce continues to meet on a six-weekly basis. Little to update at this time.

### TRACEABILITY UPDATE – WOOL

WoolProducers continues to participate in the Steering Committee of the Australian Wool Traceability Hub (AWTH). The primary focus of AWTH at this time is deliver functionality to support EAD response activities.

### POST FARMGATE BIOSECURITY WORKING GROUP

WoolProducers is working on a proposal to develop a forward strategy for the Post Farmgate (wool) Biosecurity

Working Group.

### EADRA LIVESTOCK LIAISON INDUSTRY TRAINING

LLI training was recently delivered in Victoria, with 2 wool industry representative participating. Nominations will be sought for participants from NSW, with training proposed for February 2025.

### BIOSECURITY PROTECTION LEVY AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING PANEL (BPLSFP)

The government failed to successfully introduce legislation to impose a Biosecurity Levy (Tax) on primary producers. The government is seeking other ways that producers “*could start contributing to the national biosecurity system*”. There was push back from industry who continued to highlight the disproportionately high contribution that producers already make towards the national biosecurity system. DAFF Deputy Secretary Saunders (Chair of BPLSFP) committed to pass this message onto the Minister.

WoolProducers will continue to monitor this situation should the Albanese government attempt to reintroduce the Biosecurity Levy (tax) Bill into the Senate.

### NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2024

WoolProducers lodged a submission for the National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan 2024. In its current state the Action Plan is not fit for purpose to deliver on the National Biosecurity Strategy. The vast majority of proposed actions are Commonwealth / international border centric and do not commit to many **new actions** that will result in **tangible improvements** to Australia’s biosecurity system.

## SHEEP HEALTH AND WELFARE

### BEST PRACTICE LAMB MARKING PROJECT UPDATE

The University of Adelaide has been contracted to collaborate with WPA and Sheep Producers in this project. The project is not looking at developing or delivering an extension program. It seeks to identify the key messaging and barriers that would need to be addressed via an extension program to get increased adoption of best practice landmarking.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### COMMITTEE HEALTH, WELFARE AND BIOSECURITY PRIORITIES

Members highlighted their top three Health, welfare and biosecurity priorities that will be used to inform a discussion at the next H&WAC meeting in November.

### YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

WoolProducers will reinstate the Youth ambassador program in 2025

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