

WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA HEALTH AND WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

8 MAY 2024 | ZOOM

MATTERS ARISING

WoolProducers to provide a draft a submission paper in relation to the review (proposed suspension) of products containing Diazinon prior to submission to the APVMA.

WoolProducers to draft a letter to the University of Sydney, seeking a review of their Intellectual Property licensing arrangements in relation to the Custom R-Pilus monovalent/bivalent serogroup specific footrot vaccine.

WoolProducers to circulate out of session updates to the Committee on progress made by the NVD Review Working Group.

WoolProducers to engage Jim Rothwell and Narelle Sales to request another update at the August or November HWAC meeting, including work on the Kangaroo Island project and a more detailed proposal of potential next steps.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

INTEGRITY SYSTEMS COMPANY (ISC) – PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ASSURANCE (LPA) PROGRAM

The committee received an update on proposed changes to accreditation cycles, assessment methods and costs associated with the LPA programme. The changes are targeted to deliver sustainable funding for the LPA program.

The proposed transition to a 2-year accreditation cycle (from a 3-year cycle) and increased costs would double the annual cost of accreditation.

ISC have noted feedback received from the Supply Chain Taskforce and will consider this in refining the current proposal.

ANIMAL WELFARE TASK GROUP (AWTG)

WoolProducers met to discuss the review of the processes for developing and reviewing Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines (S&G). During this meeting WoolProducers discussed frustrations with amending the S&G for sheep to mandate pain relief for mulesing (consistent with WoolProducers policy). WoolProducers will write to AWTG, presenting data from recent industry and surveys and the NWD, seeking the commencement of a review process to update the S&G for sheep to require mandatory pain relief for mulesing.

INTERNATIONAL WOOL TEXTILE ORGANISATION CONGRESS (ADELIADE)

WoolProducers attended the IWTO congress in Adelaide from 15-18 April. In addition to biosecurity, animal welfare and grower working group participation, WoolProducers convened the opening panel session of the Congress to provided delegates with a grower perspective of the supply chain and introduce the [revised Trust In Australian Wool campaign content](#).

SHEEP HEALTH AND WELFARE

FOOT HEALTH PROJECT UPDATE

Mark Ferguson, CEO of NeXtgen Agri joined the meeting and provided a progress update on the foot health project.

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY (AAWS)

Staff from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) joined the meeting to provide an overview of plans for the renewed AAWS. More information is available via the Department's "[Have Your Say](#)" webpage. Consultations close 30 Jun 2024.

STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE FOR SHEEP BLOWFLY CONTROL - NSW TRIAL RESULTS

Narelle Sales, NSW DPI outlined work undertaken by NSW DPI to investigate the application of the Sterile Insect Technique to reduce sheep blowfly populations at trial sites in NSW.

NATIONAL WILD DOG ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Greg Mifsud, National Coordinator for the National Wild Dog Action Plan provided a verbal update, focusing on the Victorian classification of dingoes, Victorian buffer zones and the Victorian 1080 review.

APVMA DIAZINON REVIEW

The Committee discussed the [APVMA review](#) (proposed cancellation of registration) of products containing Diazinon for the control, treatment and prevention of blowfly and lice in sheep.

CUSTOM R-PILUS REGISTRATION UPDATE

The committee discussed grower access to the vaccine and the requirement for full registration. The committee supported the drafting of a letter to the University of Sydney seeking a review of their IP licensing arrangements.

BIOSECURITY AND EAD PREPAREDNESS

TRACEABILITY UPDATE – SHEEP & GOAT

The committee received an update on progress towards national harmonisation of the NLIS standards for sheep and goats. The committee also noted the recent NSW government announcement of financial support for tags, however the financial support offered to growers to date fair and equitable cost sharing has still not yet been achieved and therefore WPA still does not support the rollout.

TRACEABILITY UPDATE – WOOL

WoolProducers continues to participate in the Steering Committee of the Australian Wool Traceability Hub (AWTH). This has recently included arranging meetings with state and Commonwealth governments to ensure that the AWTH can support EAD response and export certification needs in the future.

BIOSECURITY PRODUCER PROTECTION LEVY (BPL) UPDATE

WoolProducers maintains full opposition to the BPL. WoolProducers gave evidence to a Senate Inquiry held on 23 April alongside NSW Farmers and AgForce.

NVD REVIEW

The Committee was provided with an update on the review of the role of the NVD in red meat supply chain assurance systems. Updates will be provided to the committee out of session.

NSIBS UPDATE AND STRATEGY REVIEW

An update was provided on the National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy (NSIBS) project. Staffing changes within AHA have improved outcomes for the NSIBS project and the committee were encouraged to reach out in the coming months to engage further in this space.

EADRA LIVESTOCK LIAISON INDUSTRY TRAINING

LLI Training in NSW and VIC will be provided in the coming months committee members with constituents in those states to consider nominating people that might be suitable to be trained for this role.

The Chair encouraged committee members who had not undertaken training to do so.

Meeting closed 3:25pm (AEDT)
