

# WOOLPRODUCERS AUSTRALIA POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Executive Summary

14 August 2024 | Holiday Inn, Melbourne Airport / Zoom

### WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:32am and welcomed attendees.

### MATTERS FOR DECISION

#### WPA Policy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The PAC noted the Terms of Reference with the following amendments:

Implementation of a majority voting process for decision items with locked votes still able to progress to the WoolProducers Board for consideration.

### MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

#### President/CEO Report

##### President

The President provided a verbal report outlining the following key matters:

- Low wool prices continue to play on the minds of many in industry, with recent grower sentiment / intentions surveys indicating a reduction in wool production.
- The signing of a MoU with the Cat Toung (Vietnam) property development group demonstrated WoolProducers commitment to strengthening wool trade relationships between Australia and Vietnam.
- WoolProducers provided its support for a wool selling recess during the Chinese New Year holiday period, as requested by the Chinese industry. This is an important consideration with 80-90% of Australian wool currently going to China.

##### CEO

The Committee noted and discussed the CEO's report that touched on matters WPA have been involved in since the last PAC meeting:

- Live Export advocacy has required substantial WPA resources, however a very important issue.
- CEO has been participating in the Consultative Committee for Emergency Animal Diseases as an observer from a non-affected industry.
- WoolProducers is a member of the Australian Wool Traceability Hub and pleased to see the primary focus is now on facilitating EAD response activities.
- WoolProducers attended an Agriculture Sustainability Summit, there the former Minister for Agriculture, Murray Watt stated that no emissions targets will be imposed on Agriculture.

### AWI

#### WoolPoll 2024

John Roberts and Tracy Marshall gave a presentation on WoolPoll 2024, covering AWI finances and the outcomes under different levy scenarios.

#### WICP/ WCG

Methane, footrot, WoolPoll, director fees and board elections were key discussion topics.

AWI have agreed to tighten up their Board nomination and election process, including the provision of clear guidelines to board nominees and ensuring adherence to such guidelines.

#### Nature Positive Presentation

Angus Ireland provided an update to the committee on the eco-credentials research within the AWI Nature Positive project.

## Live Export

With legislation having passed parliament, it is now important that WoolProducers fight for a fair and reasonable package to fully support producers, while still maintaining our opposition to the ban.

There is an industry proposal for the establishment of an industry transition advocacy taskforce in place of the Governments proposed transition advocate. The committee agreed that WoolProducers should be involved in the taskforce.

## MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

### Update - Trade

Kelvin Le (WoolProducers AusHub based rep in Vietnam) provided a quarterly report outlining his key activities and in-market engagements.

WoolProducers continues to meet with Woolmark / AWI and Austrade representatives to explore opportunities to advance wool processing in Bangladesh.

### Update – Australian Wool Traceability Hub

As WoolProducers have been advocating for the Steering Committee now understands that for traceability to be an effective EAD risk mitigation tool, that PICs will need to be reported as close as is practically possible to 100%. Work is underway to garner industry support to increase the rates of PIC declaration.

### Update - AWTA

The President provided a verbal update on AWTA issues.

### Update - AWEX

The President provided a verbal update on AWEX issues.

### Update – Sheep Sustainability Framework (SSF)

The president and CEO summarised the paper. The following points were noted:

- WoolProducers attended the Sheep Sustainability Framework Launch immediately before LambEx
- The launch was well received
- The committee noted Jo Grainger's (DAFF) ability to deliver clear, concise and relevant messaging around industry policy on mulesing.

### Update – NFF Committees

Committee members provided verbal updates on key issues being discussed within each NFF committee.

#### Farming Systems Standing Committee

APVMA and biosecurity continue to be significant issues for the committee.

#### Economic Policy and Farm Business Committee

No update.

#### Workforce Standing Committee

The last meeting attended focused on horticultural matters and the Regional Migration Review looking at essential skills visas etc, which are not pertinent to wool.

#### Trade Standing Committee

Recent committee meetings have discussed the emergence of sustainability as a non-tariff trade barrier (regulatory and commercial). There are no current FTA negotiations that will provide significant benefit to wool.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### LambEx

The committee discussed LambEx noting it was a great event, however that it was disappointing that WPA was not approached and there were no post farmgate wool representatives despite LambEx being advertised a combined wool-sheep effort.

### Meeting closed 12:05pm (AEST)

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