

Draft Export Control Bills Package 2019

WOOLPRODUCERS
AUSTRALIA

Ms Ann McDonald
Assistant Secretary
Export Legislation and Traceability Taskforce
Department of Agriculture
GPO Box 858
Canberra City ACT 2601

Via email: exportlegislation@agriculture.gov.au

1 October 2019

Dear Ms. McDonald,

Re: Export Control Bills Package 2019

WoolProducers Australia (WoolProducers) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Department of Agriculture consultation on the draft Export Control Bills Package 2019.

WoolProducers is the peak industry council for the wool industry. Our membership is comprised of the industry's commercial, superfine and stud breeding sectors. WoolProducers is nationally representative through our State Farming Organisation members and three democratically elected Independent Directors. WoolProducers' policy areas include animal health and welfare, biosecurity, pest management control, natural resource management, drought policy, emergency animal disease outbreak preparedness, and industry development including research and trade.

Exports underpin the viability of Australia's wool industry, which exports 98 per cent of wool grown by our 60,000 woolgrowers to markets including China (app. 72 per cent), the European Union (app. 8 per cent) and India (app. 4 per cent)¹. Australia is the largest producer of wool in the world and wool contributed \$3.72 billion to Australian exports in 2017/18².

With a heavy reliance on international trade, efforts to enhance Australia's Export Control Bills are beneficial to Australian wool industry exports. WoolProducers is supportive of the draft Export Control Bills Package 2019 and the Australian Government's efforts to remove duplication and make the legislation easier to use. WoolProducers is supportive of the five outcomes of the package, and specifically we support:

- Wool remaining a non-prescribed good;
- The removal of the requirement for exporters to apply for direction from the Secretary before applying for a certificate to export wool;
- Increased sanctions and penalties to deter actions that seek to damage Australia's export markets;
- Increased sanctions and penalties that enable more appropriate punishments to be applied;
- Consistency in training and qualification requirements for approved auditors, approved assessors and appointed analysts with those for approved officers;
- A new offence for dishonestly influencing a person;
- Consideration periods for applications that pause the time required for tests or analysis;
- Exemptions being able to be applied for by a person rather than just the occupier or an exporter;

¹ ABARES, 2019

² Australian Wool Innovation, 2019

- Amendments to accredited properties, registered establishments and export licences that clarify that approvals remain in place unless they are revoked if an expiry date has not been set, and
- Implementation of reformed legislation not impacting on trade.

Should you wish to discuss our submission further, please do not hesitate to WoolProducers Australia Policy Manager, Ashley Cooper on 0455 442 776 or via email (acooper@woolproducers.com.au).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Hall', written in a cursive style.

Jo Hall
Chief Executive Officer

