

MEDIA RELEASE

WoolProducers welcomes David Littleproud as Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

6 February, 2020

Peak woolgrower representative body, WoolProducers Australia congratulates David Littleproud on his appointment as the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management.

WoolProducers CEO, Edward Storey said 'WoolProducers has previously enjoyed a strong relationship with Minister Littleproud and we look forward to working with him again on issues affecting the wool industry and agriculture more broadly.'

'Minister Littleproud has an in-depth knowledge of issues facing agriculture and his appointment sees stability in the portfolio, as well as continuity across the portfolios of drought and emergency management'. Mr Storey said.

In welcoming Minister Littleproud back to the agriculture portfolio, WoolProducers acknowledges the work of Senator Bridget McKenzie during her time as Minister.

Mr Storey said 'WoolProducers appreciates the efforts and the strong contribution Senator McKenzie made to agriculture.

'Senator McKenzie initiated the "Modernising the RDC System" Review and we would like to see this process continued by Minister Littleproud.

'Other reviews, including the Red Meat MOU Review and the re-negotiation of AWI's Statutory Funding Agreement must also be considered holistically by Minister Littleproud with the interests of levy payers in mind.

'We are also well aware of Minister Littleproud's previous expectations regarding the implementation of the 82 recommendations of the 2018 Review of AWI Performance and Governance by Ernst Young, and want these finalised in the first half of the year.' Mr Storey said.

WoolProducers also welcomes Keith Pitt to the water portfolio.

ENDS

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About WoolProducers' Australia

WPA plays a critical role in working closely with companies and entities funded by woolgrower funds including compulsory levies or fees for service.

Its mission is to develop constructive and profitable outcomes for woolgrowers nationally.

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The agency is responsible for appointing a director to each of the Australian Wool Exchange and the Australia Wool Testing Authority, promoting good corporate governance and ensuring that the interests of growers are met.

WPA maintains a working relationship with Australian Wool Innovation as the voice of woolgrower shareholders. It aims to contribute to AWI's programs for the benefit of growers, promoting responsible use of levy funds and ensuring good corporate governance.

WPA is the sole wool industry member of Animal Health Australia, and as such, carries a significant responsibility for decision making on behalf of the industry in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak.

As the only wool grower organisation with membership of the National Farmers' Federation, WoolProducers is responsible for providing key policy advice on behalf of our members, and other wool growers, to Australia's peak farm body.

WoolProducers also works closely with the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on key issues such as animal health and welfare, biosecurity, pest management control, natural resource management, drought preparedness, emergency animal disease outbreak preparedness and industry development, including research and trade.