

MEDIA RELEASE

WoolProducers welcomes sensible decision on the National Wool Declaration

30 March, 2020

Peak woolgrower representative body, WoolProducers Australia has welcomed the announcement from AWEX regarding the National Wool Declaration (NWD).

AWEX announced that they have accepted the recommendations from the Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) regarding the review of the NWD, including:

- 1. The definition of mulesing to remain unchanged,*
- 2. The definition of NM (Non-Mulesed) to remain unchanged,*
- 3. To reformat Ceased Mulesing to include two questions to improve clarity and reduce errors. The definition of CM is unchanged,*
- 4. To replace the NWD/Mulesing Status code 'PR' with 'AA' (Analgesic and/or Anaesthetic), where an APVMA registered AA product has been used, and*
- 5. With respect to Liquid Nitrogen, AWEX is seeking further information from AVI on the Animal Welfare trials being undertaken, before an informed decision can be made.*

WoolProducers CEO, Ms Jo Hall said 'We welcome this common-sense approach by AWEX. The reality is, there was not the relevant information to make such a decision'.

'WoolProducers provided written submissions into the various phases of the review process, strongly rejecting any change to the definition of mulesing and non-mulesing categories and calling for a delay in making any decision until all of the information was known.' Ms Hall said.

AWEX has also announced that a review will be held within 12 months or when the results of the scheduled pain assessment trials of Sheep Freeze Branding (SFB) are released.

Ms Hall said, 'For any organisation to make a decision at this point in time to change the non-mulesing definition, would not only have been premature but also reckless as there simply was not enough information available to make an informed decision.'

'The current usage rates for SFB are very low and therefore the volume of SFB wool that may be declared through the NWD would be immaterial'. Ms Hall said.

Further to this point, if the SFB pain assessment trials demonstrate an unreasonable level of pain is caused from this procedure, it is very unlikely that there would uptake of SFB and therefore the confusion within the trade from an amended NWD will be for no reason.

'There is a long standing and accepted definition of mulesing in Australia, and we had always maintained that if another procedure does not meet this definition then it should simply be defined as non-mulesed.' Ms Hall said.

ENDS

WoolProducers Australia contact:
Jo Hall
Chief Executive Officer
0488 554 811

MEDIA RELEASE

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.

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, Water and the Environment 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.