

WoolProducers Executive Summary

Friday, 28 February, 2020

Meeting commenced 8.56am

New Director Ratification

MOTION	That the WPA Board ratifies Simon Riddle as a Director from the 28 February 2020
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President's Report

The tabled paper was noted, including updates on WoolProducers involvement in the bushfire response, drought policy work, NWD review and the malware attack on the Talman System.

CEO's report

The tabled paper was noted, which was an overview of major areas of focus of the past 3 months including the Leadership in Ag Program, membership engagement, Animal Health Australia, AWEX, National Council of Wool Brokers, AWI, WIA, Ministerial and Departmental meetings, NAB Animal Welfare Principles, bushfire response activities, RSPCA, Sheep Sustainability Framework and submissions provided by WoolProducers including:

- NSW Inquiry into Animal Cruelty Laws
- Pre-Budget Submission
- Modernising the RDC System Review
- Senate Select Committee on Financial Technology and Regulatory Technology
- NWD Review, second consultation

Policy Managers Report

The tabled paper was noted, including coronavirus updates, Trust in Wool, NFF Drought Policy and an update on Regional Investment Corporation.

Member Issues

A discussion was held on RMAC activities.

An overview of the discussions from the AH&WAC meeting was provided.

Strategic Plan Update

A presentation on the Strategic Planning session held on 8 January. Key priority areas of focus for 2020 were covered.

Policy Determination

Animal Health and Welfare Resolutions

The following recommendations were carried by the Board.

MOTION	That WPA no longer seek voting rights at LPA or Integrity Systems Company Taskforce.
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MOTION	That WPA supports the progression of the Consumer Perceptions project.
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MOTION	That the SheepMAP Manual be finalised and published without the inclusion of the HTJ-PCR test.
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MOTION	WPA supports in-principle the <i>Genomic selection for resistance to internal parasites – improved outcomes for industry</i> project, dependent upon provision of further information as requested.
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MOTION	WPA supports in-principle the <i>Genomic selection for reduced fly strike susceptibility – improved outcomes for industry</i> project, dependent upon provision of further information as requested.
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MOTION	WPA supports in-principle the <i>Integrated management of internal parasites – releasing the potential of dung beetles</i> project, dependent upon provision of further information as requested.
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Wool Industry Consultative Panel/Wool Consultative Group

The agenda for the WCG was noted.

Discussion surrounded commentary around levy reduction from AWI and discretionary reserves, representativeness of some of the organisations, the independent chair tenure and flock profiling for broad wool flocks

10 Year Industry Strategic Plan

The tabled paper was noted.

Discussion surrounded:

- There are a number of issues affecting industry that fall outside of research, development and marketing, so how will this be dealt with?
- The industry structure is an issue that needs to be considered as it is based on when there were a lot of sheep and needs to better reflect the current industry
- There needs to be some type of alignment to the Sheep Sustainability Framework as they cannot be conflicting documents
- There needs to be consultation with our customers

Modernising RDC System Review

A verbal update on this issue. WoolProducers have been meeting with MPs lobbying for the progression and finalisation of the review.

Future of the NWD

The tabled paper was noted.

There were discussions around the process of the review and lack of transparency. The Board agreed that it appears that there are discrepancies in the review process

It was unanimously agreed that the NWD is a document about mulesing and not about lamb marking.

Concerns were raised over the third category and how this could be the start of the other husbandry procedures having to be declared.

It was also agreed that there was not enough information available for AWEX to make an informed decision.

Concerns were raised of the impact of wool from sheep treated with Sheep Freeze Branding would have on the Non-Mulesed category.

MOTION	WoolProducers is not supportive of the inclusion of AM on the NWD. WoolProducers supports the mulesing status categories of M, NM and AA
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ACTION	WoolProducers NWD submission to highlight that there is not enough information to make a decision and also the rejection of AM as a category
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Trade Update

The tabled paper was noted, with the following points of note:

- A number of meetings have been undertaken with MPs and advisors on trade issues
- Advocating strongly for the need of the EU-FTA to only be signed if there are no regulatory requirements for animal welfare
- Black line position is that we would agree to similar requirements on animal welfare as outlined in the Japan and Canadian FTAs, which is working together on animal welfare issues
- Shadow Minister King and Minister Birmingham's advisor were the most positive meetings on this issue. A follow up meeting with Minister Birmingham was suggested by the advisor to discuss this issue before the Brussels' meeting in May
- RCEP – Australian government has shifted focus to India. We have been pointing out that a bi-lateral agreement between Australia and India on wool tariffs would be an easy win for the government
- US-China trade deal, wool still hasn't been released from the 15% tariffs that have been applied
- Further information on the what the existing tariffs were outlined in the briefing papers

Carbon Neutrality

It was agreed that there needed to be a baseline set of metrics to measure GHG emissions across the agricultural sector. NFF are looking at this and we should be supportive.

WoolProducers have also joined the NFF Sustainability Committee to monitor this issue in recognition that this issue is becoming more prevalent.

Representation

AWTA

The AWTA report was noted. A verbal update on AWTA activities, including:

- Test charges are not being raised
- The company is travelling well
- There is additional money there for industry good projects

AWEX

A verbal update on recent AWEX activities, including:

- Bale labels
- Woolclasser registrations
- WoolClip – concern was raised that this was not workable if there was no mobile coverage. It was advised that this has been rectified.
- National Wool Declaration

ACTION	Invite Paul Swan to next meeting to provide an update on the progression of SustainaWOOL
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WIA

A verbal update was provided on the recent WIA issues. There are a number of ongoing issues that haven't been failed to be resolved between WIA and WPA.

Discussion surrounded membership status of WIA.

AWET

The Annual Report was noted.

WoolProducers lobbied for the remaining funds from the SheepCRC to go to AWET, which has been done.

General Business

Objective Clip Preparation

An overview was provided and the fact that there is little interest from the processing sector about this issue. It was argued that there is a lack of understanding on this method.

Broad wool representation for Animal Health & Welfare Committee

It was posed that there should be a broad wool representative sit around our Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Committee.

ACTION	Investigate if there should be a broad wool representative to sit around the WPA Animal Health and Welfare Advisory Committee
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ACCC Agriculture Committee

WoolProducers will provide a nomination to the ACCC Agriculture Committee

PETA Shearer cruelty

It was advised that a PETA alert had been circulated following the prosecution of a shearer for animal cruelty charges. This will possibly mean some negativity around the wool industry on the back of this campaign.

Next Meetings

- 20 May (H&W) & 21 May (Exec), 2020
- Consideration given to hold meetings in conjunction with Wool Week, (TBC)
- 18 November, (H&W) & 19 November (Exec; AGM), 2020

Meeting close: 3.53pm