

MEDIA RELEASE

WoolProducers seeks grower responses to COVID-19 survey

4 May, 2020

Peak woolgrower representative body, WoolProducers Australia has today released a survey for woolgrowers to capture the impacts of COVID-19 on Australia's wool growing businesses.

WoolProducers President Mr Ed Storey said, 'As the peak body representing woolgrowers, we need to know what effects, if any, have been experienced at a grass-root level from COVID-19, and understand exactly what these are'.

WoolProducers has advocated successfully for wool service industries, such as shearing, to be listed as essential services to keep the industry going through the pandemic response.

'The survey will help us demonstrate to governments what effects the pandemic may be having on our growers, and help us to plan our advocacy strategies as we continue to represent growers through COVID-19, and eventually, get their businesses back to normal operation once the response ends.' Mr Storey said.

The survey questions cover a range of areas that may be impacted by COVID-19, including access to labour and the use of Government assistance packages, such as the JobKeeper Program. The survey will be open for two weeks.

Mr Storey said, 'We need as many woolgrowers to undertake the survey as possible as this gives us the clearest understanding of the effects of the pandemic on wool businesses'.

'The survey takes about ten minutes or less to complete and is completely anonymous – but we have given growers the option to leave their contact details if they would like to give a case study of the impacts on their business that we can use in our advocacy efforts'. Mr Storey said.

The survey is available on the WoolProducers Australia website, under the dedicated COVID-19 resources page. The COVID-19 page continues to provide the latest wool industry specific advice and guidance for all industry stakeholders and can be found at www.woolproducers.com.au/covid-19/

Direct access to the survey is available here: <https://bit.ly/2ycQzsl>

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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, 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.