

## MEDIA RELEASE

### WoolProducers recipient of Traceability Grant

8 July, 2020

Peak wool representative body, WoolProducers Australia (WoolProducers), has been announced as one of sixteen recipients to receive a Traceability Grant from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE).

WoolProducers President, Mr Ed Storey said “Traceability in the wool industry is generally segmented into on-farm, post-farm and overseas supply chain sectors, with each sector using a different system that is disjointed in providing traceability through the supply chain”.

“For example, the National Livestock Identification System has been used for many years now on-farm, but Property Identification Codes is a relatively recent addition for wool tracing.” Mr Storey said.

WoolProducers’ project seeks to review current traceability systems used throughout the entire wool industry pipeline, identify gaps and weaknesses in traceability, and make recommendations to improve traceability systems for wool.

Mr Storey said, “The project will assess traceability for several circumstances where the link between the animal and the product is vital, such as emergency animal disease outbreaks, provision of wool specifications for brokers and buyers, or to allow provenance information to be transferred from farm to consumer.”

“Independent assessment of existing systems for traceability is key to ensuring that an unbiased review is undertaken so that the most appropriate steps can be followed to build our traceability and provide even greater assurances to our trading partners and customers”, Mr Storey said.

Mr Storey said, “Once complete, the report will act as the foundation for collaborative work within the wool industry to improve weaknesses in current traceability systems and address gaps that may be identified”.

“It is important that the industry works together to build a streamlined, whole of industry system that can help us quickly trace product in the event of a disease outbreak, but also that meets consumer demands relative to sustainability and provenance”, Mr Storey said.

A total of \$4 million was offered under round one of the program, which received 168 applications for projects totalling \$90 million, as part of the Modernising Agricultural Trade Agenda and builds on the National Traceability Project.

The project was supported by several industry groups, including grower representative bodies and supply chain organisations involved in post-farm gate activities, who identified the benefits of the project for the Australian sheep and wool industries.

“We would like to thank the Minister and DAWE for the funding of this important piece of work and also to industry partners who supported this concept”. Mr Storey said.

### ENDS

#### WoolProducers Australia contacts:

**Edward Storey**  
President  
0438 309 500

**Jo Hall**  
CEO  
0488 554 811

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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.

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.