

WOOL INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE PANEL (WICP)

Date: 30th October 2024

Venue: Via Microsoft Teams.

Purpose of this forum is to ensure clear, two-way consultation between AWI and organisational representatives, through to growers. The meeting provides an opportunity for the AWI Board to receive and provide feedback on current/important issues and relevant topics from Board meetings.

AWI Business Unit Update

AWI Chair and CFO gave the WICP the following updates.

- AWI is commencing work on its new strategic plan which will involve consultation with industry. The next WCG and WICP meeting will be held in February 2025 and will include a strategy session to ensure that there is alignment between the AWI Board and industry
- At the time of the meeting, Woolpoll voting was still open. Feedback had been that participation rates had increased from the previous Woolpoll. Woolpoll voting closed on the 1st of November with the results to be released in mid-November 2024.
- The AWI Board views mandatory pain relief for mulesing as a policy issue and as such remains very clear that this is an issue for industry to move forward on, not AWI and the WICP as it is outside of its terms of reference.
- So far in the 24/25 financial year, AWI has trained and up skilled 1,470 participants across 432 training days. Most of this training relates to shearing and wool handling training courses.
- YTD revenues (end of October 2024) for AWI totalled \$21.7M against a budget of \$21.5M

International Intelligence Briefing

Scott Carmody – Trade Consultant

- China's total wool imports from January to July saw a 13% YOY increase. Australia continues to be China's greatest supplier with 62% of their volume during this period being sourced from Australia.
- Feedback from on the ground sources in China, continues to be that they remain concerned and vigilant on contamination of the wool clip. These contaminants are often objects such as pens, plastics etc, with care these can be easily eliminated as contamination threats.
- Domestically, full contract shearing costs continue to edge down off the highs seen approximately 18 months ago.

Summarised feedback from the Panel to AWI regarding Research and Development and Marketing

1. Following on from the recently released Agrista report, the panel requested additional financial analysis information on merino enterprises against shedding sheep enterprises.
2. The panel noted that investment into shearing and wool handling training over the last 2-3 years has started to 'bear fruit' with wait times now minimal and in many instances, shearing contractors are ringing ahead seeking work.
3. All panel members noted that head winds for growers of all wool types continue.
4. The Panel confirmed that they will be part of the Strategy meeting and consultation with AWI in February 2025.

The next WICP meeting will be held on the 12th February 2025.

Nick Turner

WICP Independent Chair