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# 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. About AWI

#### Who we are

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is the Research, Development and Marketing (RD&M) organisation for the Australian wool industry.

When AWI was created by the Australian Government in 2001, it was our mission to enhance the profitability of the Australian wool industry and increase the demand for the natural fibre which we do through The Woolmark Company Pty Ltd - a subsidiary of Australian Wool Innovation Limited

Woolgrowers are at the heart of everything we do, and we work with the Australian Government through legislation (the Wool Services Privatisation Act 2000), regulations and a Statutory Funding Agreement.

#### What we do



Collaborate on research, development and marketing projects.



Invest in research, development and marketing.



Increase demand for wool globally.



More than 150 staff in 13 jurisdictions globally.



Consult with woolgrowers, industry, government and key partners.

#### Our Vision

AWI is a highly valued contributor to a vibrant, profitable and sustainable Australian wool industry.

#### Our Mission

To make strategically targeted investments to:

- 1. Enhance the profitability, international competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian wool industry.
- 2. Increase demand and market access for Australian wool.

#### Our Values



#### **Innovative**

AWI will drive a sustainable culture of innovation to deliver tangible solutions to research, development and marketing across the global wool industry.



#### Collaborative

AWI will engage in collaborative and supportive partnerships across our global supply chain.



#### Accountable

AWI, its staff and contractors are accountable to our stakeholders (internal and external) in all we do to provide the best return on their investment.



#### **Transparent**

In all our operations, AWI will be transparent about what, why and how we operate, and how we have performed, reporting measurable outcomes on investments and programs.



#### Integrity

Integrity drives our commitment to put growers first.



#### Respect

We will engage with each other and consult and interact with woolgrowers and other industry stakeholders in a professional and respectful way.

### Our Goal

To increase the profitability and support the sustainability of Australian wool industry through strategically targeted investments in research, development and marketing designed to optimise return on investment.

### 1.2. CEO's Statement



The coronavirus pandemic has been both a terrible health crisis and a major economic shock to the world economy. While conditions appear to be easing, the situation changes daily and we are all working to adapt to the new normal. Throughout these unprecedented times, AWI continues its efforts to ensure the sustainability of our industry and the profitability for woolgrowers' enterprises.

The 2020/21 financial year will be a tough year for everyone, markets and woolgrowers. However, despite the coronavirus pandemic being a major shock to key macroeconomies, I am quite confident that the wool industry and woolgrowers are more than robust enough to get through the crisis.

Although the EMI has somewhat dropped during this period, I am encouraged as to how well the wool market has held up compared to other markets during these

extraordinary times. There are still wool processors buying our raw wool and I am sure they believe, like me, that there is decent underlying demand for the premium and natural qualities of our fibre along the supply chain right through to consumers.

In the past 12 months, AWI's revenue, which is largely dependent on wool levy income, has taken a hit. This is due to a combination of three things. Firstly, the reduction in the rate of wool levy from 2% to 11/2%, which came into effect on 1 July last year. Secondly, the fall in Australia's wool production caused by the drought and low sheep numbers. Thirdly, the fall in the EMI, which is now about 50-60% of the record prices we had two years ago.

AWI operates in a lean, efficient and transparent manner, but just like any business with a reduced income, we have had to make cutbacks in staffing and projects. While we have had healthy

reserves, some of which we are using, the reality is that with a reduced revenue we can't provide the level of R&D and marketing that we had done in previous years. Nevertheless, rest assured that we are making sure that what we do is done for the maximum benefit of Australian woolgrowers.

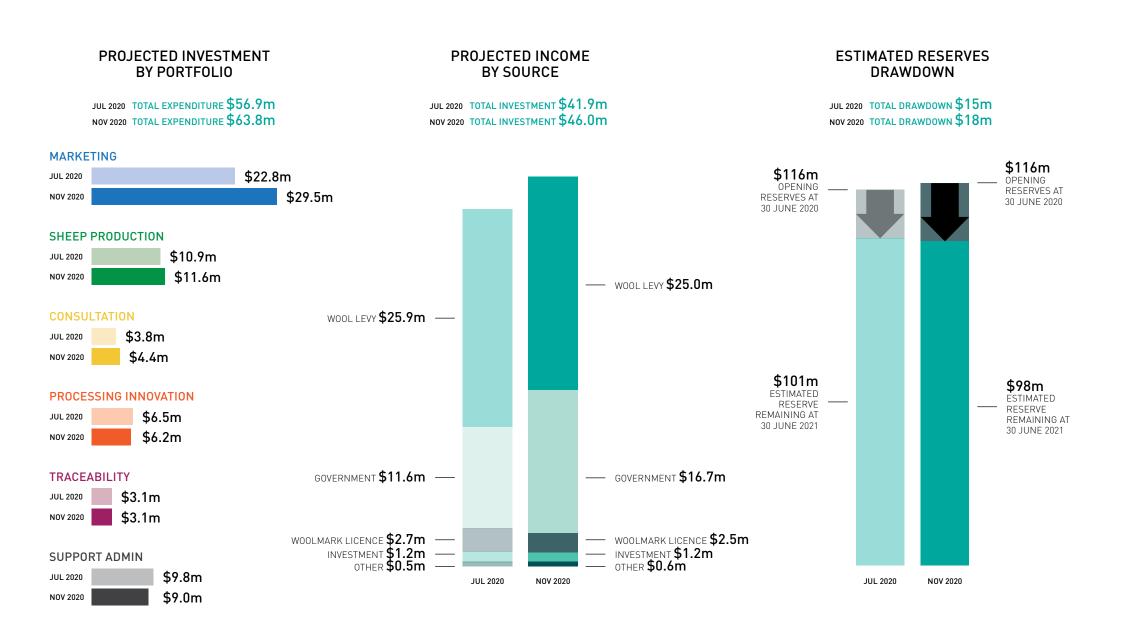
It's important we remain confident and show resilience. I strongly believe that the premium and natural qualities of our fibre and the relationships we have built along the supply chain during the past decade ensures a positive outlook for Australian wool. At AWI, while we work to defend traditional markets like suiting. we are very active in pursuing new and growing markets, especially in sports and athleisure apparel, where there is great potential to grow the market for wool. Our work in driving demand for the fibre is all geared towards lifting the price of wool for woolgrowers.

I am still deeply concerned with the circumstances of the many woolgrowers and rural communities that have been struggling from the effects of ongoing drought conditions and then bushfires. A wetter start to 2020 has eased the severity of short-term rainfall deficiencies over much of eastern Australia. However. there are many parts of the country that have not been so lucky.

I hope you have all been safe and well during these unprecedented times and remain so. Rest assured that woolgrowers' interests and future remain the focus of all AWI staff in Australia and across the world

#### Stuart McCullough

# 1.3. Budget Summary - November 2020



# 2. OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

## 2.1. Operating Environment

This 2020/21 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is the second of the three-year strategic period 2019-2022 which provides a blueprint outlining AWI's objectives with clear deliverables. In demonstrating value to Australian woolgrowers, the investment targets and measurement metrics set out in this plan are wherever possible an annualised subset of the three-year targets in AWI's Strategic Plan. The lower wool levy rate coupled with the impact of the drought and COVID-19 have reduced the revenue for the coming financial year, however AWI will prudently utilise its cash reserves accrued over the preceding years to lessen the financial impact on our projects as we work to increase the profitability and support the sustainability of the Australian wool industry.

The consequence of COVID-19 will continue to impact AWI throughout the remainder of the year and into 2021. AWI will build adaptable budget scenarios and conduct rapid reviews of how the pandemic may

impact the operating functions. Hence, In drafting both this AOP and the overarching three-year Strategic Plan, AWI's Board and Management have focused on continuing to address the key investment priorities identified by stakeholders. We will strive to continue to deliver targeted research. development and marketing investments that impact on the four key Measurement and Evaluation (M&E) drivers of productivity, efficiency, price and demand. During the 2020/21 financial year we will continue the process of realigning our resources to ensure we are structured for long term success

The AOP will provide AWI personnel with a clear picture of their tasks and responsibilities in line with the targets contained within the Strategic Plan. The outcome for some of the targets will be achieved after the completion of the threeyear period due to the nature of the projects.

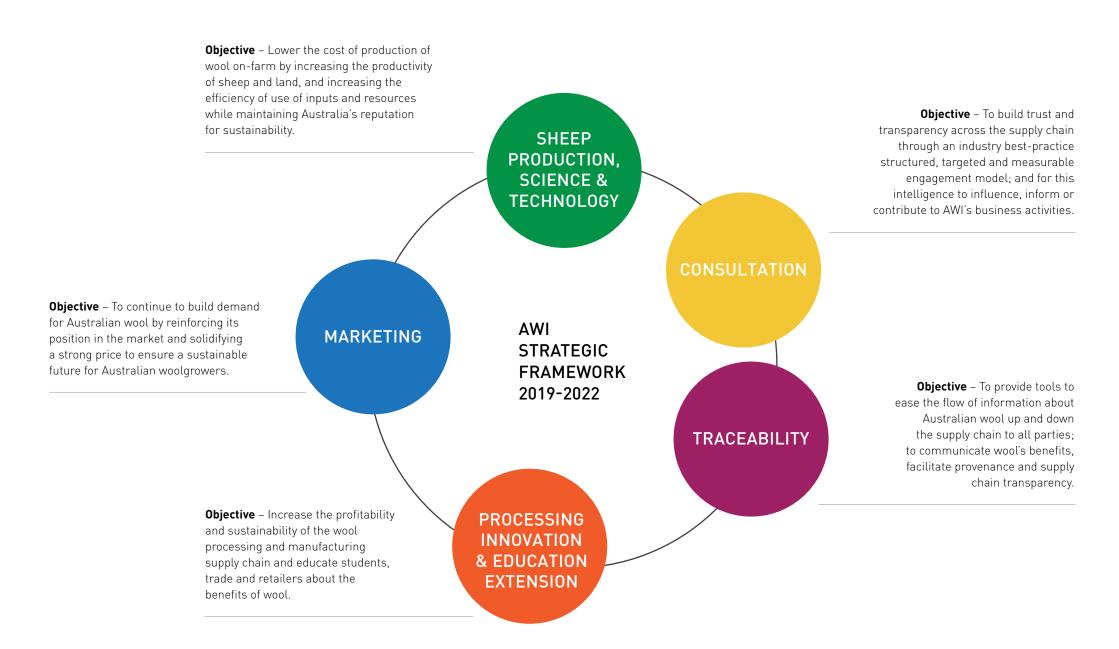
In planning its operations for the 2020/21 financial year, AWI is acutely aware it is the custodian of woolgrower funds. In managing its programs, AWI will make certain that funds are managed prudently to achieve the maximum impact ensuring accountability, integrity, stewardship and transparency. An area of enhanced focus in the coming period is AWI's consultation with woolgrowers, industry and other stakeholders, which is key to the industry's success. In doing so, AWI's goal is to build trust and transparency across the supply chain by embedding into our operations an industry best-practice, structured, targeted and measurable engagement model.

#### AGILE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the AWI Board and Management have agreed to work on an agile budget model for 2020/21. This report will be first of potentially four quarterly Budgets/Operating plans as we work through the financial and operational implications of the pandemic.

> This is the first update to the 2020/21 Annual Operating Plan incorporating the latest financial and operational implications of the pandemic.

### 2.2. Portfolio Structure



## 2.3. Risk Management

AWI is the research, development, extension and marketing company entrusted to invest woolgrower levies and matching eligible R&D funds from the government, to increase the profitability of the Australian wool industry.

AWI continually reviews the company's risk appetite which can be influenced by a number of factors, inlcuding those considered during the preparation of the Strategic Plan such as the levy rate reduction, ongoing drought conditions and now the impacts of COVID-19. Therefore, AWI seeks to balance the risk position between.

- Investing in higher risk activities that may drive substantial growth in the demand for wool; and
- The need to remain a stable organisation with the capacity to continue to work for woolgrowers long into the future.

AWI's risk appetite, by necessity, is towards the middle of the risk-taking spectrum. Depending on results from year to year, the option to either increase or decrease the appetite for higher risk activities can be availed.

AWI's risk assessment considers the company's regulatory compliance, reputation, performance management, knowledge and IP, health and safety, and financial situation.



#### **Regulatory Compliance**

At AWI we commit to ensuring we have no regulatory compliance breaches across our global footprint.



#### Reputation

AWI will act with integrity and respect with all stakeholders and partners. There is zero tolerance, for fraud, corruption, facilitation payments or unsafe workplaces.



#### Performance Management

We assess the impact of investment across AWI to ensure we are delivering results to our stakeholders.



## Knowledge & Intellectual Property (IP)

AWI respects the value of the knowledge and intellectual property it develops.



#### **Health Safety**

AWI is committed to providing safe working environments.



#### **Financial**

AWI is the custodian of grower funds and will manage these prudently within the governance policies adopted.



## 2.4. AWI'S Response To The Impact Of Coronavirus

As well as having a profound effect on people's lives and the global economy, the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted every industry across the world, including the wool industry. In response, AWI has adapted to the challenging times and will continue its work towards:

#### **Future markets**

The economic and financial wreckage brought by the pandemic could leave deep scars on the world economy. Changes in demand, many of them accelerated by the economic dislocation will change the future composition of GDP for many countries with whom we trade. AWI is focused on identifying markets and sectors that will recover quickly and drive demand as economies come through this unprecedented disruption. This will be done through global market trend analyses, including market drivers and market restraints. AWI will be able to identify markets that will emerge strongly and capitalise on the opportunity.

#### Getting on with its business of Research, Development and Marketing

AWI will continue its investment in Research, Development and Marketing (RD&M) across the supply chain to enhance the profitability, international competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian wool industry. While so many people are isolated at home, online shopping and social media are key to AWI's promotion and messaging to promote Australian wool. This will continue to be a focus into 2020/21 and AWI marketing teams are working hard to tap into what people are purchasing online while at home to identify opportunities for wool. AWI worked hard with industry on the WoolQ platform to offer WoolQ market as a contingency to the open cry auctions. WoolQ began conducting regular weekly auctions at the end of April 2020. It has always been WoolQ's aim to complement all the strengths of the existing open cry auction system at the same time as delivering additional services, rather than a replacement.

#### Assessing financial and operational risk and responding quickly

The rising uncertainty of COVID-19 has impacted the operational processes of AWI by putting strain on operational risks. AWI has and will work towards striking the right balance between cost cutting and smooth operations. AWI has created a Risk and Recovery Unit (RRU) dedicated to collecting information to assist AWI respond to changing economic conditions. The unit reaches out to AWI staff across the world who are focused on collecting the best intelligence they can get on markets and businesses. In addition to usual approval processes, the RRU will review all the future projects submitted and provide risk analysis for each of those projects including analysis of markets and partners.

#### Setting plans and targets in response to the impact of COVID-19

AWI's 3 year strategic plan (2019/2020 -2021/2022) targets will be affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its effect will be seen in the 2019/2020 annual report as set targets became difficult to achieve and timelines changed for many projects.

In planning for the 2020/2021 financial year, we have optimised our budget and will look towards ways to drive efficiency. In managing its programs AWI will make certain that funds are managed prudently to achieve the maximum impact ensuring accountability, integrity, and transparency.

#### Creating a platform for dialogue with customers, suppliers, creditors, and regulatory authorities

AWI is rapidly adjusting to the changing needs of our stakeholders while navigating the financial and operational challenges. AWI will continue to communicate with stakeholders through multiple channels, reinforce their interests as a priority and provide information to address their needs.

The repercussions of COVID-19 are expected to last for a few years as the potential impact of COVID-19 is expected to affect our operations. This plan and our future plans will help AWI focus on the specific steps necessary to achieve both our short-term and long-term objectives.

### 2.5. Measurement and Evaluation

AWI is committed to providing quantifiable returns on woolgrower and government funds. The implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework enables AWI to sustainably measure, evaluate our programs and work towards creating a robust system for collecting, analysing and reporting data.

Through the M&E framework, AWI is strengthening project management and governance on the implementation of our programs. AWI is advocating a system that encourages program managers to think clearly about what they intend doing in the way of M&E before implementation of a project begins, and to ensure those plans are adequately documented.

Understanding project requirements and tracking the deliverables to assure that requirements are met is equally important and AWI has enhanced a range of documents (variations claims, completion reports, project proposals etc) that will assist in capturing information and support in planning for next financial year's targets.

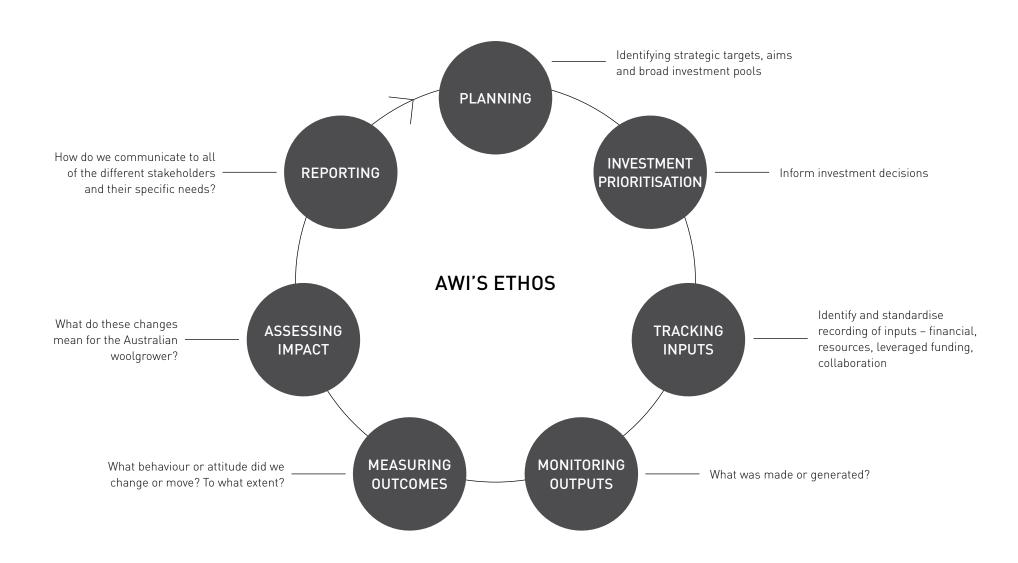
AWI's goal is to support and increase the profitability and sustainability of the Australian wool industry through strategically targeted investments. To achieve AWI's goal, four drivers of value have been identified which are productivity, efficiency, demand and price.

Return of farm assets managed (RoFAM) will be applied to inform the methods of M&E of all AWI programs and investment.

RoFAM underpins the logic of M&E – every project AWI implements should contribute to increasing RoFAM.

To successfully measure the four drivers and RoFAM. M&E has laid a foundation in creating a database management system that will help increase organizational accessibility to data. Through this system we will create an environment in which users will have better access to more and bettermanaged data that will lead to better and faster decisions

AWI has selected a vendor - **Domo** - to provide a Data Management System capable of meeting our business needs. By using this system, we will provide a platform for data storage, analysis, visualisation and reporting. This will lead to faster reporting for M&E purposes, improve efficiency across the business, develop transparency internally and externally and enhance effective inter- and intra- business. collaboration



### 2.6. Collaboration

Woolgrowers and the Australian Government, as investors in AWI's activities, expect collaboration with other Research and Development Corporations (RDCs), public and privately funded research institutes and the commercial sector.

This ensures sharing of knowledge, an increased funding pool, efficient research and development progress, enhanced reach and depth of education and progress on shared problems which otherwise may not be addressed.

Wherever possible across all AWI's portfolios collaborators are sought for both cash or in kind contributions.

#### Leverage, adoption efficiency, maximising returns and research outcomes



#### Farm Research

- RDCs
- CRCs
- Government
- Universities
- Private sector



#### Extension & Education

- RDCs
- Government
- Universities
- Schools
- Private sector



#### Supply Chain Research & Development

- RDCs
- Government
- Universities
- Manufacturers
- Retailers
- Brands
- Private sector



#### Marketing & Fibre Promotion

- Retailers
- Brands
- Other fibre organisations

#### Sample of Collaboration Projects 2020/21

- Rural R&D for Profit Projects (several RDCs)
- National Wild Dog Action Plan flivestock industries. MLA. governments)
- Dryland Legume Pasture Systems (GRDC & MLA)
- Rabbit Biocontrol (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions)
- Australian Genebank (livestock RDCs)
- Merino Lifetime Productivity (AMSEA, several univesities, CSIRO, NSW Govt)

- Best Wool, Best Lamb (MLA)
- Horizon Scholarships (AgriFutures)
- Woolmark Development Centres - Donghua University
- Woolmark Performance Challenge (116 Global Universities)
- Wool4School (schools across Australia, UK, HK and USA)
- Learn About Wool (schools) across Australia)
- Wool Science, Technology and Design Education Program **Juniversities across China** and India)

- · Global fashion and sports brands
- Woolmark Development Centres (Xinao, Nanshan and Donghua University)
- Early stage processes and manufacturing trade partners
- Prada
- adidas
- Castore
- The North Face
- Youngone
- Wool and Prince

## 2.7. AWI's Modern Slavery Stance

AWI has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery, bolstered by our voluntarily compliance with the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018.

AWI is aware that modern slavery is a risk throughout its operations and supply chains. Whether directly or indirectly, AWI operates in countries where modern slavery is far more prevalent than in Australia.

AWI has identified that within its business' operations, the supply chain and marketing sectors of the company pose the highest risk of coming into contact with modern slavery. The following actions will be taken by AWI to assess and address modern slavery risks, to ensure that risk will be mitigated as best as possible.



Modern slavery clauses standardised across business wide contracting procedures.



Compliance training mandatory for all staff members to raise awareness of modern slavery.



Additional training for key staff members, prioritised to members of staff with heightened exposure with manufacturers and factories in 'at risk' countries



AWI will express their right to request pre-contract checks and independent modern slavery audit certificates from supply chain manufacturers.



Under all contracting circumstances, project managers with conduct additional due diligence to obtain transparency into the company's policies on modern slavery.



In the event of AWI group identifying a case that constitutes modern slavery within their supply chain, AWI group will cease work with the company in question until they have been cleared of all allegations.

# 2.8. Annual Operating Plan 2020/21 Summary

#### SHEEP PRODUCTION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	-	ction of wool on-farm by increasing the productivity of sheep and land, reputation for sustainability.	and increasing the efficiency of use of inputs and resources while
STRATEGY	PROGRAMS	TARGETS	
	SHEEP HEALTH & WELFARE	<ol> <li>Evidence of successful development of a flystrike vaccine prototype. (OP)</li> <li>Evidence of investigations into novel pain relief options. (OP)</li> <li>Development of integrated parasite management strategies to minimise the impact of chemical resistance. (OP)</li> <li>Evidence of successful development of wool bale biosecurity tools. (OP)</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>5. Demonstrate a 10% increase in adoption of welfare improved practices. (OC)</li> <li>6. Demonstrate a 20% improved capacity of post-farmgate wool industry preparedness for an EAD. (OC)</li> </ul>
III ALTIIV	VERTEBRATE PESTS	<ol> <li>Reduce the negative impacts of predation by 10% by 2022. (OC)</li> <li>Improve capacity to undertake pest animal control by 10% by 2022. (OC)</li> </ol>	3. Development of new rabbit bio-controls. (OP)
HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE SHEEP	REPRODUCTION & NUTRITION	<ol> <li>At least 750 woolgrowers engaged in implementing beneficial feedbase guidelines and practices. (OC)</li> <li>Increasing Merino marking rates by 0.5% per annum. (OC)</li> <li>Complete the development of guidelines and extension workshops to improve reproductive rates that support the aim of 34% of ewes differentially managed to best practice by 2022. (OC)</li> </ol>	4. Improve the understanding of three key areas to address climate variability: effect of heat stress on reproduction performance, best practice for supplementary feeding and management of resilient pasture species. (OP)
	GENETICS	<ol> <li>By 2022, 50% of Merino producers will be using genetic tools (eg Australian Sheep Breeding Values, Flock Breeding Values or wether trial data) in ram purchasing decisions. (OC)</li> </ol>	
AGRI TECHNOLOGY	HARDWARE & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT	<ol> <li>AWI Smart Tag system delivers at least three practical functionalities driven by sensors, hardware is reliable and durable, and software is able to be updated remotely. (OP)</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Artificial Intelligence (machine learning) applied for data analysis delivering accurate predictions for at least two sheep traits or paddock events. (OP)</li> </ol>
	MECHATRONICS	Proof of concept robotic shearing system delivered. [OP]	
TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY	SHEEP & WOOL MANAGEMENT SKILLS	<ol> <li>1. 1,000 tertiary participants in AWI leadership and practical skills, events and online initiatives. (OC)</li> <li>2. AWI leadership and practical skills events delivered to participants receive a net promoter score of at least 7.5/10. (OC)</li> </ol>	3. 20,000 views of AWI Education & Extension resources online. (OC)
UPTAKE	WOOL HARVESTING & QUALITY PREPARATION	<ol> <li>1. 1,500 novice and intermediate level participants trained by AWI shearer and wool handler trainers. (OC)</li> <li>2. Ongoing retention rate of 75% of those trained yearly. (OC)</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>3. 20,000 views of AWI Wool Harvesting resources online. (OC)</li> <li>4. Support the promotion of shearer and wool handling through support of elite competitions and competitors nationally. (OC)</li> </ul>

OC - Outcome OP - Output

#### CONSULTATION

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To build trust and transparency across the supply chain through an industry best-practice structured, targeted and measurable engagement model; and for this intelligence to influence, inform or contribute to AWI's business activities.

**STRATEGY** 

**PROGRAMS** 

- 1. 14,000 active participants in AWI extension initiatives. (OC)
- 2. AWI workshops delivered to participants receive a net promoter score of 7.5/10. (evidenced by exit surveys). (OC)

1. Support and engage woolgrowers at more than 50 events and forums nationally. (OP)

3. 300.000 views of AWI Network resources online. (OC)

**EVENTS & FORUMS** 

**EXTENSION NETWORKS** 

- MARKET INTELLIGENCE & COMMUNICATIONS
- 1. 70% of users of AWI's Market Intelligence find it of 'high value' or above (evidenced by AWI survey). (OC)
  - 2. Increase subscriber numbers by 20%. (OC)

**TARGETS** 

WOOLGROWER REPRESENTATIVE **BODIES** 

**PARTNERED** 

INNOVATION

RETAIL EDUCATION

- 1. WICP and WCG members report AWI consultation efforts have been maintained or improved at 8.9 (approval rating out of 10). (OC)
- 3. Market Intelligence area on AWI website receives 15,000 views per month. (OC)

#### PROCESSING INNOVATION & EDUCATION EXTENSION

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Increase the profitability and sustainability of the wool processing and manufacturing supply chain and educate students, trade and retailers about the benefits of wool.

**STRATEGY** 

**PROCESSING** INNOVATION



WOOLMARK	

PROGRAMS	TARGETS

- TEXTILE & RETAILING 1. Proof of concept novel retail technology application. (OP) **TECHNOLOGIES** 
  - 2. Proof of concept novel textile technology/fashion tech application. (OP)
  - 1. Partner with six machinery companies for product or process development. (OP)
  - 2. Minimum of three fully-fashioned garment product developments made commercially available. (OP)
  - 1. Deliver retail training programs across womenswear, menswear and
  - sportswear to a minimum of 10 retailers/brands globally. (OC)
- 3. Educational packages to increase technology awareness, adoption and digital literacy. (OP)
- 3. Minimum of five footwear developments made commercially available. (OP)
- 4. Research and commercial trial of one wearable technology. (OP)
- 5. Partnered product developments to increase by 20%. (OP)
- 2. Retail staff have successfully completed 100 retail training courses on the properties and benefits of Australian wool on the Woolmark Learning Centre digital platform. (OC)
- 1. Increase the number of The Wool Labs views/presentations by 10%. (OC) TRADE EXTENSION 2. Increase swatch requests from The Wool Lab by 1.5%. (OC)

  - 1. Increase participation in the Learn About Wool primary and secondary
  - education program by 2.5%. (OC) 2. Increase global participation in the Wool4School secondary design competition by 5% across Australia, Hong Kong, UK and Italy. (OC)
- 3. 250,000 visitors to Woolmark Digital trade show pages. (OC)
- 3. Increase participation in tertiary education programs by 5%. (OC) 4. Students have successfully completed 2,000 courses on the Australian wool industry through the Woolmark Learning Centre digital platform. (OC)

QUALITY CONTROL

STUDENT EDUCATION

- 1. 400 branded product samples purchased and processed through the QA program to maintain the integrity of the Woolmark brand. (OP)
- **LICENSING**
- 1. Increasing use of the Woolmark logo on qualifying product by 2.5% as measured through the use of branded tickets and labels. (OC)

# 2.8. Annual Operating Plan 2019/22 Summary (continuation)

#### **MARKETING**

OVERALL OBJECTIVE To continue to build demand for Australian wool by reinforcing its position in the market and solidifying a strong price to ensure a sustainable future for

VERALL OBJECTIVE	Australian woolgrow	eriand for Austratian woot by reinforcing its position in the market and so ers.	dunying a strong price to ensure a sustamable future for
TRATEGY	PROGRAMS	TARGETS	
RADE	FIBRE ADVOCACY	<ol> <li>Increase trade leads by 2.5%. (OC)</li> <li>5% active engagement rate on owned content. (OC)</li> </ol>	
BUSINESS	INTERNATIONAL WOOLMARK PRIZE	<ol> <li>300 new leads per year. (OC)</li> <li>Achieve 50% of surveyed alumni as continued wool advocates post-award. (OC)</li> <li>60% of IWP finalists' collections commercialised. (OC)</li> </ol>	4. Achieve a 5% increase on active engagement on IWP related content. (OC)
PER	WOOLMARK PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE	<ol> <li>Increase digital engagement by 20% year on year. (OC)</li> <li>Increase competition entry rate by 10%. (OC)</li> <li>Increase webinar average attendance rate from 19 to 22. (OC)</li> </ol>	
	FIBRE ADVOCACY	<ol> <li>5% increase in active engagement on owned media channels. (OC)</li> <li>Increase The Woolmark Company brand awareness by 5%. (OC)</li> </ol>	3. Increase The Woolmark Company brand sentiment by 7%. (OC)
ONSUMER	BRAND PARTNERSHIP	<ol> <li>Partner with 2 global brand partners. (OC)</li> <li>Increase purchase intent of Australian wool by 5%. (OC)</li> <li>Achieve a 5% uplift in fibre share with global brand partners. (OC)</li> </ol>	

#### **TRACEABILITY**

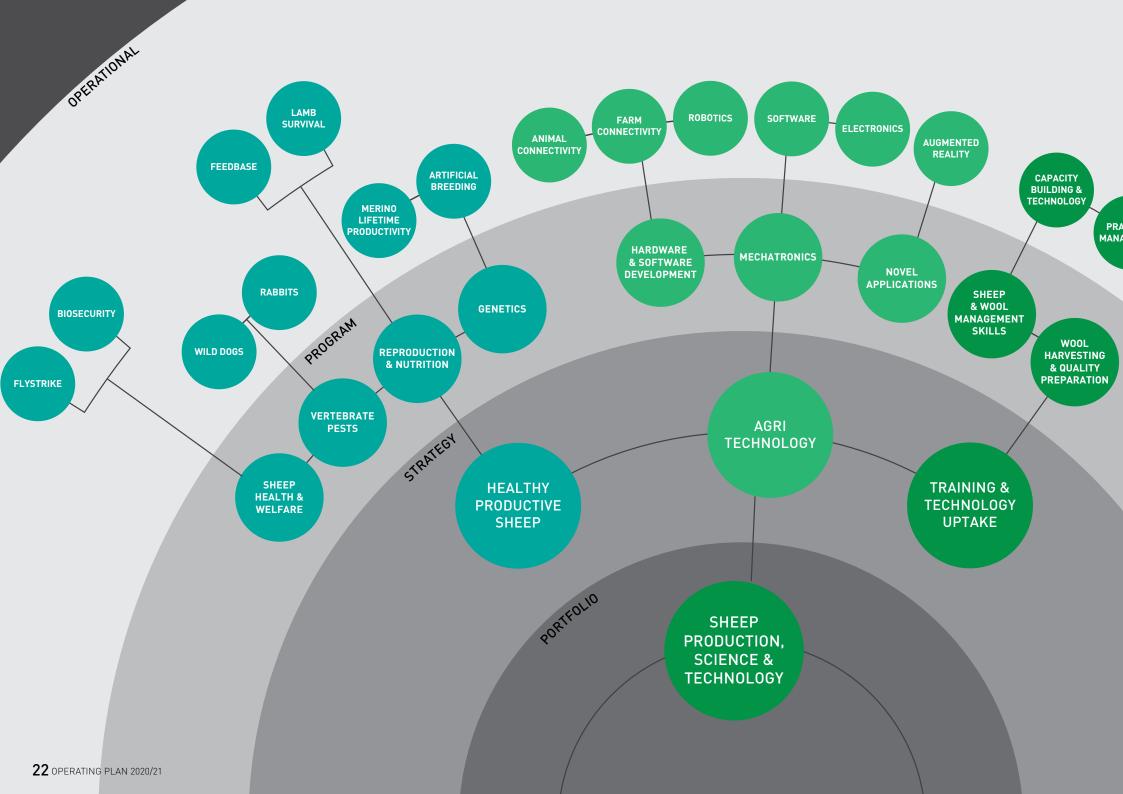
impact of woolgrowers using regenerative farming practices. (OP)

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	To provide tools to ease the flow of information about Australian wool up and down the supply chain to all parties; to communicate wool's benefits, facilitate provenance and supply chain transparency.				
STRATEGY	PROGRAMS	TARGETS			
SUPPLY CHAIN INITIATIVES	WOOLQ	1. An increase of 750 woolgrowers adopting the WoolQ grower tools. (OC)	2. Deliver a WoolQ tender selling option to compliment the WoolQ bulletin board and auction (OP)		
	FIBRE IDENTIFICATION & TRACING	<ol> <li>Define new fibre-origin test method for adoption into the supply chain and use by laboratories. (OP)</li> </ol>	2. Draft protocols for the chain of custody of wool through the supply chain ready for review by global wool industry bodies. (OP)		
	HEALTH AND WELLNESS	<ol> <li>Produce and publish evidence of specified next to skin Merino garments as beneficial for eczema. (OP)</li> <li>Produce and publish evidence of specified next to skin Merino garments as improving sleep quality. (OP)</li> </ol>	3. Generate new test protocols to measure wool's breathability in dynamic conditions. (OP)		
FIBRE SCIENCE	ECO CREDENTIALS	<ol> <li>Produce and publish evidence how current environmental scoring of apparel disadvantages the value chains of natural and renewable biogenic carbon fibres compared to non renewable fossil carbon derived fibres. (OP)</li> <li>Produce and publish case studies on the environmental and economic</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Develop and publish a method for accounting for recycling in LCA. (OP)</li> <li>Improve wool's environmental rating relative to synthetics, by working to establish a level playing field for rating apparel. (OC)</li> <li>Generate new knowledge of wool's carbon account, including emissions at the</li> </ol>		

national and farm scales and identifying plausible mitigation strategies. (OP)

OC - Outcome OP - Output

# 3. STRATEGIC PORTFOLIOS



# 3.1. SHEEP PRODUCTION INNOVATION & ADVOCACY

CTICAL AGEMENT

# **OBJECTIVE**

Lower the cost of production of wool on-farm by increasing the productivity of sheep and land, and increasing the efficiency of use of inputs and resources while maintaining Australia's reputation for sustainability.

# **OUTCOMES**

- Australian woolgrowers use tools and information to:
  - improve the lifetime welfare of their sheep
  - reduce predation impacts.
- Research and development provides evidence for improved flystrike prevention, rabbit biocontrol, differential ewe management, improved feedbase practices, wool disinfection and genetic evaluation.
- Development of agri-technology provides evidence for improved labour efficiency and lower cost inputs.

# Sheep Production, Science & Technology Strategies



#### **HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE SHEEP**

The challenges are to efficiently achieve lifetime sheep health and welfare, timely pasture growth and more lambs without compromising future productivity. When woolgrowers succeed through genetic benchmarking or adjusting inputs or their management, they want to ensure their gains are not decimated by predators.



#### **AGRI TECHNOLOGY**

Automation will bring efficiencies in farm data collection, analysis and decision-making using smart sheep tag hardware, sheep to sheep connectivity, sheep to farm connectivity and augmented reality interfaces. Safe (or soft) robotics are working with humans in other industries which is an opportunity for improving the wool harvesting process.



#### TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY UPTAKE

To be recognised as a valuable contributor to the profitability and sustainability of Australian woolgrowers, through the provision of a broad range of grower-facing communication, engagement and training initiatives.

# Strategy: **Healthy Productive Sheep**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
	<ul> <li>Natural blowfly population sampling progressing:         <ul> <li>2019/20 natural blowfly population sampling completed and analysed.</li> <li>2020/21 natural blowfly population sampling commenced.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Flystrike vaccine candidate synthesis progressing:         <ul> <li>Analysis of the timing and magnitude of sheep response to the sheep wound proteomics study commenced.</li> <li>Examination of CSIRO vaccine candidates across natural blowfly population collections commenced.</li> <li>Vaccination trials of candidate vaccine antigens complete.</li> <li>In vitro assessment of combination antisera for vaccine synergy and efficacy commenced.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Evidence of successful development of a flystrike vaccine prototype. [OP]
	Final report on gap evaluation of pain relief research received and recommendations as to future research directions considered and prioritised for initial investigation.	Evidence of investigations into novel pain relief options. (OP)
SHEEP HEALTH & WELFARE	<ul> <li>Sheep Blowfly Chemical Resistance project completed.</li> <li>Communication resources on Integrated pest management strategies to minimise the impact of chemical resistance available for growers and their advisors.</li> <li>Benchmarking Australian Sheep Parasite Control Survey Report finalised.</li> <li>Findings from Benchmarking Australian Sheep Parasite Control Survey communicated to growers.</li> <li>On-going support and contribution to ParaBoss operational plan for 2020/21 with an emphasis on integrated pest management.</li> <li>Strategy for implementation of ParaBoss Phase III developed.</li> </ul>	3. Development of integrated parasite management strategies to minimise the impact of chemical resistance. (OP)
	<ul> <li>Model for internal wool bale storage conditions (temperature and humidity) against ambient climatic conditions developed and validated.</li> <li>A plan for the manufacture, storage, maintenance and mobilisation (as required) of the wool bale sprayer developed and endorsed.</li> <li>Final recommended modifications to the prototype bale sprayer made.</li> <li>A plan for the manufacture, storage, maintenance and mobilisation (as required) of the wool bale sprayer developed and endorsed.</li> </ul>	Evidence of successful development of wool bale biosecurity tools. (OP)

# Strategy: **Healthy Productive Sheep** (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
SHEEP HEALTH &	<ul> <li>2020/21 Breech Flystrike Prevention Communication Plan developed and implemented, that includes:</li> <li>Regular BTB and extension network articles on use of pain relief, use of ASBVs for breeding for breech flystrike resistance and integrated pest management.</li> <li>Completion and distribution of information for growers on use of analgesia and anaesthesia and everyday animal husbandry practices that deliver good animal welfare.</li> </ul>	5. Demonstrate a 10% increase in adoption of welfare improved practices. (OC)
WELFARE	<ul> <li>Ongoing implementation of the Wool Industry Post Farmgate EAD Preparedness RDE Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22.</li> <li>A plan to establish a small wool industry EAD 'first-response' team, from across the industry considered and, if agreed, developed.</li> <li>Industry communication plan to develop and promote industry response resources that complement and simplify the AUSVETPLAN documents for post farm gate wool industry personnel developed.</li> </ul>	6. Demonstrate a 20% improved capacity of post-farmgate wool industry preparedness for an EAD. (OC)
VEDTEDDATE DEGTE	<ul> <li>3% Reduction in negative impacts of predation.</li> <li>Maintain 8 Wild Dog Coordinator positions across Australia.</li> <li>Increase co-funding and partnerships to support Wild Dog Coordinator positions.</li> <li>Provide training and support to Wild Dog Control and Cluster groups subject to financial constraints.</li> <li>8 groups / clusters / Training programs assisted / provided.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Reduce the negative impacts of predation by 10% by 2022. (OC)</li> <li>Improve capacity to undertake pest animal control by 10% by 2022. (OC)</li> </ol>
VERTEBRATE PESTS	<ul> <li>Identify distribution and spread of Calicivirus strains across Australia.</li> <li>Identification and monitoring of strain X environment activity.</li> <li>Identification and monitoring of strain X environment activity.</li> <li>Publications and extension material where appropriate and valuable.</li> <li>Establishment of RHDV2 program.</li> </ul>	3. Development of new rabbit bio-controls. (OP)

# Strategy: **Healthy Productive Sheep** (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
	<ul> <li>Improve knowledge and skills of producers in regards to the Newly developed Novel Dryland legumes to suit their production needs.</li> <li>Improve the understanding of the optimal Phosphorus requirements of Pasture Legumes to reduce inputs and production costs for woolgrowers.</li> <li>Improve the knowledge and understanding of the suitability, optimal establishment and ongoing management of Superior Forage Shrubs to fill feed gaps and make use of previously unproductive land.</li> </ul>	At least 750 woolgrowers engaged in implementing beneficial feedbase guidelines and practices. (OC)
REPRODUCTION &	<ul> <li>Lifetime Ewe Management program (LTEM) delivered. This program equips participants with best practice management principles for ewe management to increase on-farm productivity and profitability improving marking rates.</li> <li>Development of reproduction extension packages and tools to provide guidelines to increase lamb survival and marking rates (Winning with Weaners, Optimum mob size)</li> </ul>	Increasing Merino marking rates by 0.5% per annum. (OC)
NUTRITION	<ul> <li>Lifetime Ewe Management program (LTEM) delivered. This program equips participants with best practice management principles for ewe management to increase on-farm productivity and profitability improving marking rates.</li> <li>Development of reproduction extension packages and tools to provide guidelines to increase lamb survival and marking rates (Winning with Weaners, Optimum mob size)</li> </ul>	3. Complete the development of guidelines and extension workshops to improve reproductive rates that support the aim of 34% of ewes differentially managed to best practice by 2022. (OC)
	Management of resilient pasture species: Improve knowledge and understanding of newly developed novel dryland legumes, and their production requirements to suit the variability of our climate in years to come.	4. Improve the understanding of three key areas to address climate variability: effect of heat stress on reproduction performance, best practice for supplementary feeding and management of resilient pasture species. (OP)
GENETICS	<ul> <li>Review the future of wether trials as a genetic evaluation tool and general extension</li> <li>Continue to collect MLP and MLP Add-On project data and increase awareness of the projects and where appropriate promote early results through newsletters, field days, websites and interviews</li> <li>Collaborate on the MLP analysis and reporting options with Industry and Research provider</li> </ul>	By 2022, 50% of Merino producers will be using genetic tools (eg Australian Sheep Breeding Values, Flock Breeding Values or wether trial data) in ram purchase decisions. (OC)

# Strategy: **Agri Technology**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
HARDWARE & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT	<ul> <li>AWI Smart tags are being tested in different paddock conditions for robustness and reliability. Updates of the firmware can be made remotely and as frequently as required.</li> <li>Validation of reproductive algorithms to detect a mating event recorded by smart tags retrieved from rams a and a mating or oestrus event retrieved from ewes.         Development of algorithms and models to identify and quantify grazing behavior.     </li> </ul>	1. AWI Smart Tag system delivers at least three practical functionalities driven by sensors, hardware is reliable and durable, and software is able to be updated remotely. (0P)
	<ul> <li>Collection of sheep data and on farm data to build datasets to feed machine learning models.</li> <li>Development of models and tools to predict morphologic traits on sheep using artificial intelligence.</li> </ul>	Artificial Intelligence (machine learning) applied for data analysis delivering accurate predictions for at least two sheep traits or paddock events. (OP)
MECHATRONICS	Projects progressing to deliver proof of concept for semi-automated shearing systems and/or solutions for shearer's fatigue management and injury prevention.	Proof of concept robotic shearing system delivered. (0P)

# Strategy: Training & Technology Uptake

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
SHEEP & WOOL MANAGEMENT SKILLS	Practical management information  AWI will continue to develop and make available key industry resources on best management practices and existing technologies across all facets of sheep production. Resources will be made available through a range of mediums including print, App development and AWI websites.  Capacity building & technologies  Retention of wool industry participants through access to skills building opportunities to increase their capacity in leadership, business, industry promotion and their confidence in the future of their industry. Address shortfalls in practical hands-on and entry level training initiatives specific for wool and sheep management.	<ol> <li>1. 1,000 tertiary participants in AWI leadership and practical skills, events and online initiatives. (OC)</li> <li>2. AWI leadership and practical skills events delivered to participants receive a net promoter score of at least 7.5/10. (OC)</li> <li>3. 20,000 views of AWI Education &amp; Extension resources online. (OC)</li> </ol>
WOOL HARVESTING & QUALITY PREPARATION	Innovative in-shed practices and technologies  With the broader adoption of innovative approaches to wool harvesting, such as upright and mobile shearing, multi-purpose sheds and easier catch/drag/release methods, AWI will work with industry to develop and deliver applicable training components.  Promote elite shearing and wool handling  AWI will continue to recognise elite shearing and wool handling through communication and promotion initiatives, as well as regional, state and national competition support.	<ol> <li>1. 1,500 novice and intermediate level participants trained by AWI shearer and wool handler trainers. (OC)</li> <li>2. Ongoing retention rate of 75% of those trained yearly. (OC)</li> <li>3. 20,000 views of AWI Wool Harvesting resources online. (OC)</li> <li>4. Support the promotion of shearer and wool handling through support of elite competitions and competitors nationally. (OC)</li> </ol>

# Annual Operating Plan Sheep Production 2020/21

STRATEGIES	PROGRAMS	Program Budget (AUD '000)	Strategy Budget (AUD '000)	Sheep Production Sub-total (AUD '000)	Allocation Of Cross Functional Project (AUD '000)	Total Project Allocation Budget (AUD '000)	Operating Costs (AUD '000)	Total Portfolio Costs (AUD '000)
	Sheep Health & Welfare	825		8,435	483	8,918	2,642	11,560
HEALTHY PRODUCTIVE	Vertebrate Pests	1,590	4,590					
SHEEP	Reproduction & Nutrition	800						
	Genetics	1,375						
AGRI TECHNOLOGY	Hardware & Software Development	678	1,160					
	Mechatronics	482						
TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY UPTAKE	Sheep & Wool Management Skills	750	2,685					
	Wool Harvesting & Quality Preparation	1,935						



# 3.2. CONSULTATION

## **OBJECTIVES**

To build trust and transparency across the supply chain through an industry best-practice structured, targeted and measurable engagement model; and for this intelligence to influence, inform or contribute to AWI's business activities.

# **OUTCOMES**

- Measurable contribution to future-proofing the industry, in terms of retaining and attracting the next generation to the industry; and to maintaining and building the Australian Merino flock.
- Accountability to woolgrowers by listening to and acting upon on-farm and regional challenges that are communicated via a structured and enhanced industry consultation model, and in turn leverage this feedback loop as a means of achieving improved awareness and understanding of AWI business activities by its levy payer base.
- Demonstrable positive increase in woolgrower sentiment toward AWI, via an annual survey, as a highly valued contributor to a vibrant, profitable, innovative and sustainable Australian wool industry.

- Deliver an innovative, practical and tailored project suite that lifts non-shareholder levy payer awareness of AWI activities to a level where woolgrowers within this group see value in converting to an AWI shareholder
- Build strong relationships within Australian and state Government, and respective departments; demonstrating a collaborative approach with industry, and tangible returns on government investment via robust measurement and evaluation.
- Provide opportunity for reducing knowledge gaps between supply chain partners by an enhanced market intelligence function, and by acting as a conduit between sectors.

# **Consultation Strategies**



#### **WOOLGROWER**

Australian woolgrowers are the reason AWI exists. Australian woolgrowers and the future health of their operations will always be the business' priority focus, in terms of woolgrower levies that fund AWI activities, and in managing these funds prudently to deliver strategic, relevant, sophisticated, and measurable outcomes that contribute to a vibrant, profitable, innovative and sustainable Australian wool industry.



#### **INDUSTRY**

AWI looks to work in a structured, transparent and collaborative way with the plethora of industry bodies, and for the intelligence gleaned from this engagement to influence, inform or contribute to AWI business activities.

# Strategy: Woolgrower

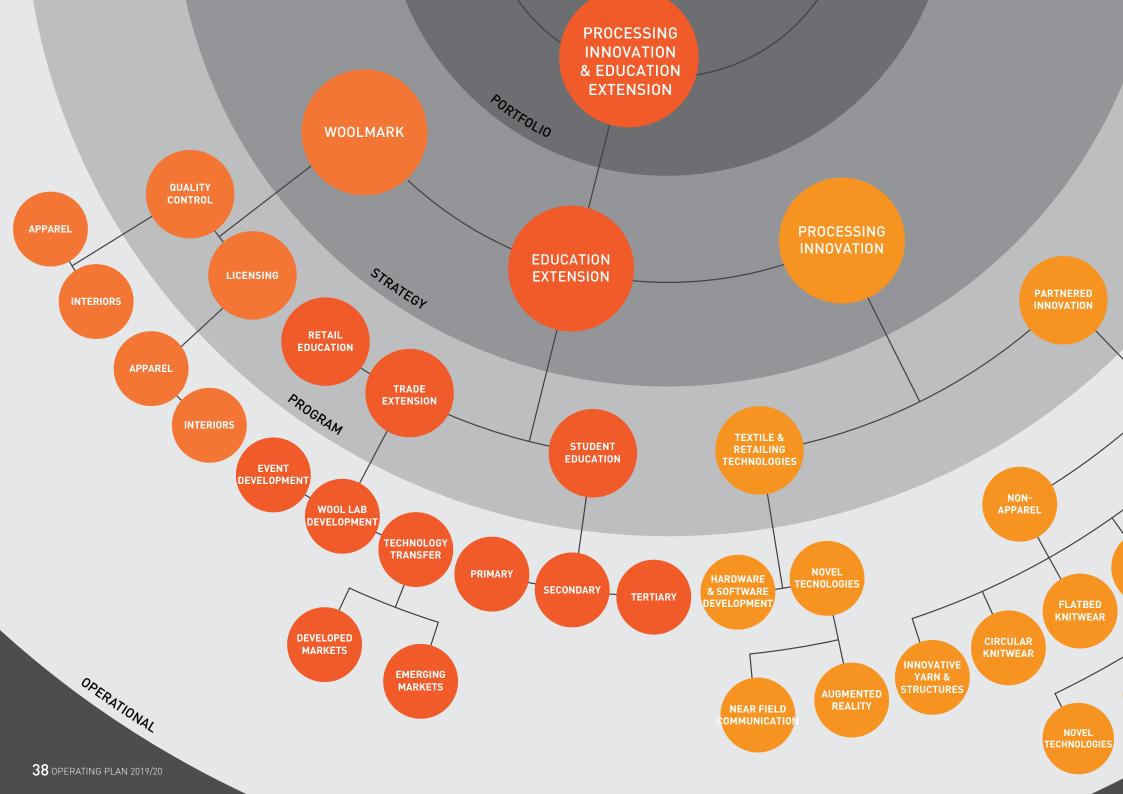
PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
EXTENSION NETWORKS	<ul> <li>AWI will continue to develop and disseminate key industry resources on best management practices and existing technologies across all facets of sheep production, with these readily available in both digital and print format.</li> <li>Participants through access to skill-building opportunities to increase capacity in leadership, business, industry promotion and confidence in the future of the industry.</li> <li>Address shortfalls in practical hands-on and entry level training initiatives specific for wool and sheep management.</li> <li>Seeking new networks to engage with in order to reach woolgrowers, particularly in cropping zones where renewed interest in sheep exists. Examples: Grains Industry Association, WA; Birchip Cropping Group, VIC; Mallee Sustainable Farming, VIC, SA; Grassland Society, NSW.</li> <li>Increased consultation with extension group PAPs and increased engagement with woolgrowers through events, workshops and conferences.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>14,000 active participants in AWI extension initiatives. (OC)</li> <li>AWI workshops delivered to participants receive a net promoter score of 7.5/10 (evidenced by exit surveys). (OC)</li> <li>300,000 views of AWI Network resources online. (OC)</li> </ol>
EVENTS & FORUMS	<ul> <li>Focus on future-proofing the industry in terms of the Merino flock, next generation and new technologies.</li> <li>Direct and collaborative support and presence at events.</li> <li>Increase current reach to engage with more commercial woolgrowers, young woolgrowers and potential woolgrowers, via existing or new events.</li> <li>Ensure feedback is gathered, and acted upon wherever possible, to inform the business on regional priorities and to continually sharpen relevance to woolgrowers.</li> </ul>	Support and engage woolgrowers at more than 50 events and forums nationally. (OC)
MARKET INTELLIGENCE & COMMUNICATION	<ul> <li>Create the most valued market intelligence in the wool industry.</li> <li>Build demand and subscriber numbers as an indication of quality, well presented and sought-after information.</li> <li>Provide forecast analysis and insights into global trends to inform business owners of threats and opportunities across the supply chain.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>70% of users of AWI's Market Intelligence find it of 'high value' or above (evidenced by AWI survey). (OC)</li> <li>Increase subscriber numbers by 20%. (OC)</li> <li>Market Intelligence area on AWI website receives 15,000 views per month. (OC)</li> </ol>

# Strategy: **Industry**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
WOOLGROWER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES	AWI has undertaken a significant review of its consultation activities over the past strategic period, commencing in 2016 and culminating in the establishment of a new consultation model in early 2019.  The focus of the new consultation model is on developing more effective, respectful and meaningful consultation with woolgrower representative bodies through:  1. AWI'S Woolgrower Industry Consultation Panel (WICP); and  2. AWI'S Woolgrower Consultation Group (WCG).	1. WICP and WCG members report AWI consultation efforts have been maintained or improved at 8.9 (approval rating out of 10). (OC)

#### Annual Operating Plan Consultation 2020/2021

STRATEGIES	PROGRAMS	Program Budget (AUD '000)	Strategy Budget (AUD '000)	Woolgrower Services Sub-total (AUD '000)	Allocation Of Cross Functional Project (AUD '000)	Total Project Allocation Budget (AUD '000)	Operating Costs (AUD '000)	Total Portfolio Costs (AUD '000)
	Extension Networks	1,035	2,280	2,853	183	3,036	1,335	4,371
WOOLGROWER	Events & Forums	246						
	Market Intelligence & Communication	739						
	Media	260						
INDUCTOV	Government	35						
INDUSTRY	Representative Bodies	538						



# PERFORMANCE **CIRCULAR TEXTILES TEXTILES** YARN & WOMENSWEAR ECHNOLOGIES **MENSWEAR** NOVEL FLATBED

#### 3.3. PROCESSING INNOVATION

#### **& EDUCATION EXTENSION**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Increase the profitability and sustainability of the wool processing and manufacturing supply chain.

#### **OUTCOMES**

- Develop new innovative manufacturing and technology processes.
- Develop new product ranges based on newly developed processes launched globally in collaboration with supply chain partners and marketing teams.
- Manufacturers mainly in emerging countries, new to wool, using established wool technologies.

#### Processing Innovation & Education Extension Strategies



#### PROCESSING INNOVATION

By assisting (through transfer of innovations) manufacturers to adopt innovative technologies which add significant value, either functionally (eg moisture management properties) or aesthetically (new textures) so their products will attract higher premiums. This in turn will lead them to become more profitable, and thus more likely to stay in wool and willing to pay a higher price for it.



#### **EDUCATION EXTENSION**

Education and training of supply chain participants ensures wool remains a competitive processing sector against other fibres and inspires designers, brands and retailers to use wool in their product ranges, and ideally, to leverage the intrinsic properties of wool to grow profitable demand for their products.



#### **WOOLMARK**

The Woolmark brand underpins many of AWI's other programs by providing a central point of focus to link initiatives across the entire wool supply chain. The Woolmark product specifications and quality control and testing policy support The Woolmark Company's consumer marketing efforts to change perceptions about wool.

### Strategy: **Processing Innovation**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
TEXTILE & RETAILING TECHNOLOGIES	<ul> <li>Interactive retail &amp; ecommerce technologies.</li> <li>Digital engagement tools and emerging digital opportunities.</li> <li>Connected garments (Fashion Tech) and virtual presentation.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Proof of concept novel retail technology application. (OP)</li> <li>Proof of concept novel textile technology/fashion tech application. (OP)</li> <li>Educational packages to increase technology awareness, adoption and digital literacy. (OP)</li> </ol>
PARTNERED INNOVATION	<ul> <li>Development of new yarns, textiles, garments, footwear and non-woven products.</li> <li>Engagement with leading machinery manufacturers to explore new opportunities for wool production, process and treatments.</li> <li>Wearable technologies and 3D printing.</li> <li>Technical transfer.</li> <li>Partnered product innovations with key global brands.</li> <li>Research and trials into eco-friendly processing treatments and technologies.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Partner with six machinery companies for product or process development. (OP)</li> <li>Minimum of three fully-fashioned garment product developments made commercially available. (OP)</li> <li>Minimum of five footwear developments made commercially available. (OP)</li> <li>Research and commercial trial of one wearable technology. (OP)</li> <li>Partnered product developments to increase by 20%. (OC)</li> </ol>

### Strategy: **Education Extension**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
RETAIL EDUCATION	<ul> <li>Develop 'white label' retail training programs across a diversity of brands with a specific focus on womenswear, menswear and sportswear brands for global delivery.</li> <li>Continue to work directly with brands and retailers to develop custom training programs across various product categories.</li> <li>Develop a retail training portal via the Woolmark Learning Centre to ensure all retail training programs are accessible online and in multiple languages.</li> <li>Continue to host retail training tours to Australia where influential luxury brands have an opportunity to come to the source of Australian Merino wool and be connected with woolgrowers. This program aims to bridge the gap between the woolgrower and the brand/retailer at the end of the supply chain providing an education opportunity for both.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Deliver retail training programs across womenswear, menswear and sportswear to a minimum of 10 retailers/brands globally. (OC)</li> <li>Retail staff have successfully completed 100 retail training courses on the properties and benefits of Australian wool on the Woolmark Learning Centre digital platform. (OC)</li> </ol>

### Strategy: **Education Extension** (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
TRADE EDUCATION	<ul> <li>THE WOOL LAB (DEVELOPMENT)         The Wool Lab (TWL) will continue to be the main tool to inspire and connect designers, brands and retailers to wool.         AWI will continue to develop and deliver TWL via seasonal (Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter collections) as well as a targeted Sports collection and Wool Denim collection to appeal to the contemporary market. We will continue to increase the extension of TWL by face to face presentations, however a key focus is on digital means to maximise the value and reach. TWL provides a sourcing service for key tuxury brands and retailers for innovative design and fashion trends that utilise wool as the main fibre.     </li> <li>EVENT DEVELOPMENT (TRADESHOWS)         AWI will continue to exhibit at the most influential international trade shows, including machinery, yarn, fabric, sports/outdoor, and technical shows that will support investment across our off-farm and marketing areas. Trade show messaging will focus on TWL (sourcing), new innovations (inspiration) and the eco-credentials of wool (education).     </li> <li>AWI will use these shows to affirm The Woolmark Company's role as a leading authority in the fashion and textile industry, through seminars, media coverage and partner feedback (including post-trade fair follow upl. Trade shows also provide an important source of leads for continual business development as well as the opportunity to support our supply chain partners.</li> <li>WOOL RESOURCE CENTRES AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRES</li></ul>	<ol> <li>Increase the number of The Wool Lab views/ presentations by 10%. (OC)</li> <li>Increase swatch requests from The Wool Lab by 1.5%. (OC)</li> <li>250,000 visitors to Woolmark Digital trade show pages. (OC)</li> </ol>

#### Strategy: **Education Extension** (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
STUDENT EDUCATION	<ul> <li>AWI will continue to develop and produce educational resources such as 'Sam the Lamb' and 'Learn About Wool' for primary and secondary students.</li> <li>Support will be provided to teachers by way of education materials, online lesson plans, videos and other materials in line with National curriculums.</li> <li>AWI will continue to refine and roll-out the Wool4School Design competition globally to engage secondary students to learn about the benefits and versatility of wool.</li> <li>Seminars and competitions via Woolmark Performance Challenge for tertiary students will be held globally to educate, inspire and connect the future generation, giving them an understanding of processing, the supply chain and the many possibilities for careers within the wool industry.</li> <li>AWI will continue to develop the Wool Appreciation and Wool Education Courses aimed at tertiary Design and Textile Engineering students to be delivered via face-to-face and train the trainer approach to key global markets.</li> <li>AWI will continue to convert all educational courses and competitions available for primary, secondary and tertiary students and teachers onto the online Woolmark Learning Centre platform to create a central hub for all educational resources. This platform will ensure participants (students and teachers) have access to the most up to date information and resources. It will also allow students to be credited for the courses they complete via a badging system.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Increase participation in the Learn About Wool primary and secondary education program by 2.5%. (OC)</li> <li>Increase global participation in the Wool4School secondary design competition by 5% across Australia, Hong Kong, UK and Italy. (OC)</li> <li>Increase participation in tertiary education programs by 5%. (OC)</li> <li>Students have successfully completed 2,000 courses on the Australian wool industry through the Woolmark Learning Centre digital platform. (OC)</li> </ol>

### Strategy: Woolmark

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
QUALITY CONTROL	Maintaining the position of the Woolmark licensing program as a quality assurance	400 branded product samples purchased and processed through the     QA program to maintain the integrity of the Woolmark brand. (OC)
LICENSING	<ul> <li>Maintenance of the supply chain and licensing database.</li> <li>Robust internal processes to ensure the licensing of the Woolmark logos through the supply chain to end product is well administered.</li> <li>Effectively administrative support for the QA system.</li> <li>Getting engagement from supply chain partners.</li> </ul>	Increasing use of the Woolmark logo on qualifying product by 2.5% as measured through the use of branded tickets and labels. (OC)

# Annual Operating Plan Processing Innovation & Education Ext 2020/21

STRATEGIES	PROGRAMS	Program Budget (AUD '000)	Strategy Budget (AUD '000)	PIEE Sub-total (AUD '000)	Allocation Of Cross Functional Project (AUD '000)	Total Project Allocation Budget (AUD '000)	Operating Costs (AUD '000)	Total Portfolio Costs (AUD '000)
PROCESSING	Textile & Retailing Technologies	60	760	760	261	3,139	3,103	6,242
INNOVATION	Partnered Innovation	700	, , , ,					
	Retail Education	195		2,070				
EDUCATION EXTENSION	Trade Education	1,350	1,895 2					
	Student Education	350						
WOOL MARK	Quality Control	143	223					
WOOLMARK	Licensing	80						



#### 3.4. MARKETING

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To continue to build demand for Australian wool by reinforcing its position in the market and solidifying a strong price to ensure a sustainable future for Australian woolgrowers.

#### **OUTCOMES**

- New and sustainable demand for Australian wool.
- Australian Merino wool is positioned as the premium fibre for luxury apparel and sportswear.
- Enhanced consumer awareness of the benefits of Australian wool as a fibre of choice in apparel.
- The Woolmark Company is a credible, globally recognised and mutually beneficial partner for brands and retailers.

#### Marketing Strategies



#### **TRADE**

The Trade Marketing strategy (B2B) aims to build the reputation for Australian wool amongst the global apparel industry through a program of fibre advocacy, fostering and promoting innovation, increasing brand equity for the Woolmark and championing Australian wool's inherent eco-credentials. The Woolmark Company's internal creative and digital teams will deliver cost-efficient, cutting edge marketing and communications.



#### **BUSINESS & TALENT DEVELOPMENT**

A strategic Business and Talent Development (BTD) program, bringing together the company's Education and Extension, Processing Innovation and Marketing functions to drive increased business development opportunities and build an alumnus of lifelong Australian wool advocates. The strategy encompasses key programs such as the International Woolmark Prize and Woolmark Performance Challenge.



#### **CONSUMER**

The Consumer marketing strategy (B2B2C) aims to develop and implement marketing campaigns with key designers, brands and partners to drive growth, defend core categories and build the reputation for Australian wool. This strategy will deliver value to partner brands, maximise investment efficiency and deliver the wool message across all touchpoints aligned to the most important brands and retailers across the world.

### Strategy: **Trade**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
	THE WOOL LAB  The Wool Lab has become one of the essential tools for global brands and designers searching for the highest quality, most innovative wool products in the market, directly connecting them with the supply chain.  The trade marketing strategy will ensure The Wool Lab and latest innovations are effectively promoted to the global industry to guarantee continued innovation uptake, growth for Australian wool and positioning of The Woolmark Company as a global authority.	
	Highlighting new processing applications to promote adoption of wool innovations.	
	Owned content & communication strategy (imagery, video, trend reports, research and insight sharing).	
	Paid media strategy.	
	• PR	
	<b>EVENTS</b> Trade marketing will promote a series of online and offline events focused on driving consideration for wool innovations and building the reputation of Australian wool through a program of content, PR and communication strategy.	
	Trade show marketing to drive attendance and consideration of wool innovations.	1. Increase trade leads by 2.5%. (OC)
FIBRE ADVOCACY	Wool Resource Centre marketing & engagement strategy including thought leadership initiatives.	2. 5% active engagement rate on owned content. (OC)
	Development of educational event program.	
	MEANING OF THE WOOLMARK  Use the Woolmark brand promise to build loyalty between the apparel industry and the Australian woolgrowers by providing a globally recognised quality assurance program that communicates best practices and provenance. The Woolmark Company will aim to curate a community of wool advocates within the trade industry through access to insights, research and education around the intrinsic benefits of the fibre and the prestige of the Woolmark certification.	
	Highlight the commercial benefits of the Woolmark program to a trade audience through content, collateral and seminars.	
	Promote best-practice licensees to commercial brands through editorial, events and paid media.	
	Create valuable content and communication strategy for licensee retention and wool education (owned content strategy).	
	Ensure retailers and brands are educated about the intrinsic benefits of the fibre and the prestige of the Woolmark certification.	

#### Strategy: Business & Talent Development

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
INTERNATIONAL WOOLMARK PRIZE	<ul> <li>ALUMNI</li> <li>Educational wool seminars and webinars.</li> <li>Partnerships with influential industry experts in marketing, retail and business to offer independent advice to alumni and specifically winners on how they can maximise their relationship with The Woolmark Company and the fibre.</li> <li>Continued coverage and support of alumni brand development across The Woolmark Company-owned digital and social platforms.</li> <li>EVENTS/CONTENT</li> <li>Investment in boundary-pushing content profiling the award and its participants by aligning with top level tastemakers from across the fashion, art and technology industries to create highly sharable and media worthy assets.</li> <li>Create inspiring events that tell the story of the fibre in a unique way and encourage top level media attendance and content opportunities for continued editorial and social media coverage.</li> <li>Secure the most influential fashion commentators, celebrities, stylists and influencers to attend events and elevate the prestige of the award.</li> <li>RETAIL/COMMERCIALISATION</li> <li>Support for international retail launch activities including local area marketing, events, merchandising and designer appearances for maximum engagement with VIP shoppers, media and staff to promote the benefits of the fibre.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>300 new leads per year. (OC)</li> <li>Achieve 50% of surveyed alumni as continued wool advocates post-award. (OC)</li> <li>60% of IWP finalists' collections commercialised. (OC)</li> <li>Receive a 5% increase on active engagement on IWP related content. (OC)</li> </ol>

#### Strategy: Business & Talent Development (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
WOOLMARK PERFORMANCE CHALLANGE	<ul> <li>ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION</li> <li>Promotion of the competition to highly-respected tertiary-level institutions globally.</li> <li>Educational material delivery (online and physical) providing the next generation of product developers with the knowledge and inspiration to innovate using Australian Merino wool.</li> <li>Engagement of credible industry experts across a range of boundary-pushing disciplines to act as advocates of the program within their respective fields and provide training and development for finalists.</li> <li>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE AWARENESS</li> <li>Create thought-provoking events that communicate the potential benefits of the innovation ideas presented for industry and end consumers, and Australian wool's pivotal role in achieving these benefits. Attract attendance of key decision makers and influencers in sportswear, textile futures, and product innovation.</li> <li>Investment in content profiling the challenge, partners and the finalists, and their innovative concepts in highly creative and engaging ways to create sharable and media-worthy assets.</li> <li>Secure influential athletes, professionals, and relevant media personalities to attend events and become credible advocates for the challenge and its aims.</li> <li>Create platforms and events that provide networking opportunities for AWI/The Woolmark Company and WPC participants facilitating new wool product collaborations.</li> <li>Marketing support for new WPC-driven wool products at time of public release, if and when appropriate, to elevate wool's position as an innovative fibre and encourage consumer uptake.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Increase digital engagement by 20% year on year. (OC)</li> <li>Increase competition entry rate by 10%. (OC)</li> <li>Increase webinar average attendance rate from 19 to 22. (OC)</li> </ol>

### Strategy: **Consumer**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
FIBRE ADVOCACY	MEANING OF THE WOOLMARK Leveraging global brand recognition of the Woolmark logo to build loyalty between consumers and the Australian wool industry through a strategic marketing and content program that communicates quality assurance, best practices and provenance. Building equity for the mark in the minds of the global consumer will help position fibre content and Australian wool as a purchase driver.  Develop a content strategy to communicate the meaning and prestige of the Woolmark.  Secure co-brand content to highlight the meaning of the mark.  Consumer advertising program.  ECO CREDENTIALS  Establish a comprehensive strategy to communicate the environmental positioning of Australian wool, that is publicly available online. This strategy will reaffirm the Australian wool industry's commitment to best practice management of environmental and social aspects of wool-growing. Through content and PR, we will aim to position Woolmark as a standard bearer for sustainability, providing consumers with a clear reference point for Woolmark's exacting standards. The Woolmark Company will promote best practice, adhering to industry guidelines and will include the following principles: environmental management, animal welfare and labour standards.  Content strategy highlighting Australian wool's eco-credentials.  Partner alignment strategy.  BENEFITS OF WOOL  Continue to challenge the common misconceptions around wool that remain a barrier to purchase through content, PR, ambassador alignment and brand experience. Build fibre advocacy by highlighting the technical benefits of the fibre through marketing, advertising, defensible communication and media.	<ol> <li>5% increase in active engagement on owned media channels. (OC)</li> <li>Increase The Woolmark Company brand awareness by 5%. (OC)</li> <li>Increase The Woolmark Company brand sentiment by 7%. (OC)</li> </ol>

### Strategy: **Consumer** (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
BRAND PARTNERSHIP	<ul> <li>FASHION         Partner with culturally relevant or transformational brands, retailers and designers to secure increased representation of Australian wool product within collections.     </li> <li>Create co-branded marketing strategies to promote Australian wool product by communicating technical and/or en vironmental benefits to help ensure fibre composition is a key purchase driver.</li> <li>SPORT         Partner with leading performance, athleisure and wellness brands to deliver new Australian wool product.     </li> <li>Create co-branded marketing strategies to promote Australian wool product by communicating technical and/or environmental benefits to help ensure fibre composition is a or purchase driver.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Partner with 2 global brand partners. (OC)</li> <li>Increase purchase intent of Australian wool by 5%. (OC)</li> <li>Achieve a 5% uplift in fibre share with global brand partners. (OC)</li> </ol>

### Annual Operating Plan Marketing 2020/21

STRATEGIES	PROGRAMS	Program Budget (AUD '000)	Strategy Budget (AUD '000)	Woolgrower Services Sub-total (AUD '000)	Allocation Of Cross Functional Project (AUD '000)	Total Project Allocation Budget (AUD '000)	Operating Costs (AUD '000)	Total Portfolio Costs (AUD '000)
TRADE	Fibre Advocacy	993	993		1,422	16,573	12,917	29,490
BUSINESS & TALENT DEVELOPMENT	International Woolmark Prize	2,050	2,350	15,151				
	Woolmark Performance Challenge	300						
CONSUMER	Fibre Advocacy	9,776	11,808					
	Brand Partnership	2,032						



#### 3.5. TRACEABILITY

#### **OBJECTIVES**

To provide tools to ease the flow of information about Australian wool up and down the supply chain to all parties; to communicate wool's benefits, facilitate provenance and supply chain transparency.

#### **OUTCOMES**

- Provide tools to woolgrowers which improve profitability through informed decision making.
- Provide tools to the wool supply chain to meet retail market calls for supply chain transparency and provenance stories.
- Provide scientific information to retailers and consumers to demonstrate that wool is the planet-friendly fibre of choice.
- Provide scientific information to retailers and consumers to demonstrate that wool is the fibre of choice for comfort.

#### Traceability Strategies



#### **SUPPLY CHAIN INITIATIVES**

Supply chain initiatives will be researched and developed to distinguish and identify Australian wool through the supply chain. Tools to increase efficiency and transparency from farm gate to end consumer will be developed and enhanced.



#### FIBRE SCIENCE

Fibre science is the evidence the wool industry uses to promote to consumers that wool is the planet friendly fibre of choice. AWI will add to the body of knowledge that consumers' personal micro-environment, their living and working environment and the global environment can all be improved by wool.

### Strategy: Supply Chain Initiatives

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS	
WOOLQ	<ul> <li>INDUSTRY GROWTH</li> <li>Improve the prosperity/profitability and interest of Australian woolgrowers by:</li> <li>delivering a high quality, easy to use tool that will assist/allow woolgrowers and their business partners to make better business decisions regarding the selling of their wool.</li> <li>allowing woolgrowers to become more invested in the selling of their wool clip through greater access and transparency to their customers and the selling options.</li> <li>ensuring that competition throughout the entire supply chain remains paramount.</li> <li>promoting tangible links between woolgrowers, the processors and end users of Australian wool.</li> <li>INNOVATION</li> <li>Foster an environment of innovation in the Australian wool industry by:</li> <li>demonstrating commitment to continuous improvement of the WoolQ platform.</li> <li>promoting and not crowding out additional (non-WoolQ) industry innovation.</li> <li>preparing the industry for constant and inevitable change including the downstream consumer demands of provenance and traceability.</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>An increase of 750 woolgrowers adopting the WoolQ grower tools. (OC)</li> <li>Deliver a WoolQ tender selling option to compliment the WoolQ bulletin board &amp; auction. (OP)</li> </ol>	
FIBRE IDENTIFICATION & TRACING	Scoping and proof of concept work to determine how AWI delivers tools in the emerging space of traceable textile/apparel markets.	<ol> <li>Define new fibre-origin test method for adoption into the supply chain and use by laboratories. [OP]</li> <li>Draft protocols for the chain of custody of wool through the supply chain ready for review by global wool industry bodies. [OP]</li> </ol>	

### Strategy: **Fibre Science**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS	TARGETS
	Collect clinical data for two international studies assessing the impacts of Merino garments on eczema sufferers in preparation for publication.	Produce and publish evidence of specified next to skin Merino garments as therapeutic for eczema. (OP)
HEALTH & WELLNESS	Collect clinical data assessing the impact of Merino wool and cotton sleepwear on the sleep outcomes and symptoms of post-menopausal women in preparation for publication.	Produce and publish evidence of specified next to skin Merino garments as improving sleep quality. (OP)
	Complete manikin testing and human testing including interpretation of the relationship between fabric, manikin and human test results to guide development of a method for measuring wool's dynamic breathability.	Generate new test protocols to measure wool's breathability in dynamic conditions.(OP)
	Complete two comparative assessment studies of natural and synthetic fibres across a wide range of impact categories over matching life stages.	Produce and publish evidence how current environmental scoring of apparel disadvantages the value chains of natural and renewable biogenic carbon fibres compared to non renewable fossil carbon derived fibres. (0P)
ECO CREDENTIALS	<ul> <li>Develop an environmental land classification system appropriate to Australian farming systems and assess the environmental and economic impact of contemporary wool growing operations.</li> <li>Investigate current and potential garment care scenarios evidencing how wool delivers better environmental outcomes</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Produce and publish case studies on the environmental and economic impact of woolgrowers using regenerative farming practices. (OP)</li> <li>Develop and publish a method for accounting for recycling in LCA. (OP)</li> </ol>
	Engage with the EU Product Environmental Footprint program, through the development and contribution of meaningful LCA methodology that does not disadvantage wool.	4. Improve wool's environmental rating relative to synthetics, by working to establish a level playing field for rating apparel. (OC)
	<ul> <li>Develop a report assessing the technical feasibility, cost-benefits and opportunities of achieving lower emission wool.</li> <li>Undertake a review of accounting methods for methane emissions from ruminants and the implications for global warming.</li> </ul>	5. Generate new knowledge of wool's carbon account, including emissions at the national and farm scales and identifying plausible mitigation strategies. (OP)

### Annual Operating Plan Traceability 2020/21

STRATEGIES	PROGRAMS	Program Budget (AUD '000)	Strategy Budget (AUD '000)	Traceability Sub-total (AUD '000)	Allocation Of Cross Functional Project (AUD '000)	Total Project Allocation Budget (AUD '000)	Operating Costs (AUD '000)	Total Portfolio Costs (AUD '000)
SUPPLY CHAIN INITIATIVES	WoolQ	604	1,020	2,056	130	2,186	916	3,102
	Fibre Identification & Tracing	416						
FIBRE SCIENCE	Health & Wellness	600	1,036					
	Eco Credentials	436						

## 4. OPERATIONAL

#### 4.1. Operational Support Functions



#### **CORPORATE SERVICES**

Corporate Services provides key expertise, compliance, governance, support and value to the global business in the areas of financial management, legal and company secretarial support including IP portfolio management, people services and internal IT services.



#### **DIGITAL SERVICES**

With the ever-changing digital landscape, it is the role of Digital Services to ensure technology is woven throughout AWI's global operations. This ensures a firm, secure digital ecosystem is established while at the same time remaining nimble to adapt to changing market conditions.

### Strategy: Corporate Services

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS
BOARD	STRATEGY – Defining and overseeing the implementation of the AWI's purpose and strategic objectives and the relevant programs and budgets.  GOVERNANCE – Approving and monitoring the effectiveness of the Company's governance practices including Code of Conduct and business ethics and oversight of compliance with the Statutory Funding Agreement (SFA).  RISK – Setting the risk appetite within which the management operates and ensuring an appropriate risk management framework is in place.
FINANCE SERVICES	COMPLIANCE – monitor and manage corporate financial compliance and reporting requirements globally, acknowledging the complexity and changing governance requirements across the company's global footprint.  RISK – manage the company's global investment and foreign currency exposures within the approved policies to safeguard corporate funds and minimise currency risk exposure.  PROCESS AND REPORTING – provide useful and accurate financial reports to the business to enable effective decision making that meets the global financial compliance requirements.  Continual improvement of processes, systems and tools to enhance the value provided internally to the business to the business.
PEOPLE SERVICES	TALENT ACQUISITION AND RETENTION – Attract and retain the best available talent for each specific current or future position in AWI.  PEOPLE PERFORMANCE – Ensure AWI people have the required skills, processes, support, and training which will allow them to perform to their best potential, aiming to achieve their own and AWI's goals while having as a motivation the company's vision and mission.  WORKPLACE CULTURE – Recognise, value and understand what is important to our staff to make AWI a great place to work.
LEGAL SERVICES	LEGAL RISK – provide legal support to AWI group to minimise legal risk and ensuring good governance processes.  COMPLIANCE – monitoring legal statutory and regulatory compliance requirements across AWI global operations.  INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – monitor and manage the group Intellectual property (IP) portfolio.

### Strategy: Corporate Services (continuation)

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS
MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION	FRAMEWORK – develop, support and monitor the AWI M&E framework across the group.  SUPPORT – provide internal support to AWI staff to ensure effective implementation, compliance and adoption of the framework to build and embed a performance culture.  EVALUATION – coordinate and prepare annual reviews by external independent consultants to complete evaluations and validate internal mechanisms.
	ITS will deliver clear direction and vision as a service and enabler to the business, and look to anticipate and identify emerging technology trends to ensure continuous innovation while making intelligent technology investment decisions and increasing overall operational efficiency.  CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE – Continue the adoption of a Cloud-first strategy, preferencing public cloud offerings over on-premise infrastructure. This reduces risk, lowers cost, improves availability and increases agility in the deployment of IT software and systems infrastructure.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES	SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT – Continue ongoing risk assessment and implementation of robust protections against fast emerging cyber security threats that can harm business reputation and data assets. In alignment with AWI's IT strategy, development and regular review of policies and controls are inherent throughout the business.  GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE – Ensure AWI is compliant with global and local data protection and privacy standards and legislations (including GDPR). ITS is focused on improved data management architecture and lifecycle.
	COLLABORATION AND ACCESSIBILITY – Increase internal capacity to connect staff and allow teams to communicate and work together more efficiently and effectively, thus delivering sustained productivity improvements.  DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS - Seek technology investment solutions in order to consolidate, categorise, analyse and present AWI data to internal and external stakeholders. Support employees with necessary knowledge change management to treat data as an asset and offer methods to discover new ways to find value and insights in existing and complementary data sets.

### Strategy: **Digital Services**

PROGRAMS	INVESTMENT FOCUS
	INFRASTRUCTURE – The management and maintenance of a secure technology, data and digital ecosystem will provide ongoing cost and operational savings whilst providing solid governance and the ability to respond to changing market conditions or business needs in an economical and efficient manner.
DIGITAL	<b>DELIVERY</b> – We will leverage existing platforms as well as deploying new ones as a way to increase speed to market for a variety of projects and initiatives across all facets of the business. This will enable the business to pivot as needed during times of crisis without overall disruption to operations.
DIOTAL	CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT – We aim to utilize integrated digital systems and audience mapping to have targeted communications with and gather useful data on our key customers and stakeholders, helping us to get the right message to the right people at the right time while improving the efficiency and capacity of staff.
	MARKET MONITORING – The business currently operates across a range of markets and audiences and as such it is important to monitor and remain aware of new technology and digital market changes to ensure the business continues to grow, especially during times of change like COVID-19.

## 5. ANNUAL BUDGET 2020/21

**CORRECT AS OF NOVEMBER 2020** 

		BUDGET 2020/21 (AUD '000)	REVISED NOVEMBER 2020 (AUD '000)
	Wool Levy	25,875	24,950
	Government Contribution	11,600	16,650
REVENUE	Woolmark	2,661	2,539
REVENUE	Investment	1,208	1,208
	Other	545	641
	TOTAL REVENUE	41,889	45,988
	Sheep Production, Science & Technology	10,908	11,560
	Consultation	3,773	4,371
PROGRAM	Processing Innovation & Education Extension	6,518	6,242
SUPPORT COSTS	Marketing	22,810	29,490
	Traceability	3,054	3,102
	TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS	47,063	54,765
SUPPORT & ADMINISTRATION COSTS		9,826	9,073
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		56,899	63,838
NET RESULT (as a function of reserve drawdown)		(15,000)	(17,850)



The Operating Plan is available at

WOOL.COM