Purpose of AWI’s Woolgrower Industry Consultative Committee (ICC)

The purpose of AWI’s ICC enables AWI to formally consult with woolgrower representative organisations, allowing them to provide feedback on priorities from their members, and for AWI to report on its performance and plans. These priorities guide AWI’s investment and activities.

ATTENDEES

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<tr>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wal Merriman</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>AWI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Meyer</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders (AASMB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Hayne</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Australian Superfine Woolgrowers Association (ASWGA)</td>
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<td>Martin Oppenheimer</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Australian Wool Growers Association (AWGA)</td>
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<td>Nick Cole</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Broad wool breeds (ACA)</td>
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<td>Chris Patmore</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (PGA)</td>
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<td>Ed Storey</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>WoolProducers Australia (WPA)</td>
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<td>Tom Kirk (Guest Participant)</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Don Brown Ewe Competition (DBEC)</td>
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<td>Andrew McDonald</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR)</td>
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<td>Stuart McCullough</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>AWI</td>
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<td>Peta Slack-Smith</td>
<td>General Manager Corporate Affairs &amp; Market Access</td>
<td>AWI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Gittoes</td>
<td>Corporate Affairs Manager</td>
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ICC members report on their members’ priorities

AWI invited ICC members to provide their member’s research, development and marketing priorities for AWI. AWI’s Statutory Funding Agreement (SFA) with the Australian Government requires AWI to provide responses to the items raised in the ICC meeting record. The following summarises those priorities and AWI’s response.

Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders (AASMB) – Peter Meyer

- Happy with AWI’s current activities.
- Concern around shearing and noted the need for continuation of training and employment opportunities.
  - **AWI response:** AWI invests around $2 million annually to attract and retain shearsers and wool handlers by building capacity through training, improving working conditions through best practice OH&S and shed design, and promoting shearing and wool handling as a profession and sport through competitions. AWI is working with Shearing Contractors Association on a project proposal to create ongoing local employment and training to strengthen the wool harvesting industry in Victoria.
- Attended National Merino Challenge (NMC) for first time. Expressed disappointment that there wasn’t more data shown at one of the stations – figures were presented but no raw data to relate to the figures. Disappointed most students hadn’t handled a sheep and noted need to encourage this more through NMC.
  - **AWI response:** AWI are always seeking feedback and looking at ways it can improve the NMC. It is noted that the NMC coordinator received this feedback from AASMB after the event and are already looking at incorporating more raw data at next year’s event.
- Encourage further research on the blow fly to support woolgrowers address flystrike. Noted the work that was done on the fruit fly and the release of sterile males to support the horticulture industry.
  - **AWI response:** AWI agrees that there is potential in the fly genome area. AWI previously funded work on mapping of the fly genome, identifying 14,554 genes that make up the sheep blowfly. The challenge is to identify what function those genes have and use that knowledge to control flystrike. While it is high risk work, AWI is currently investing in a couple of projects.

Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association (ASWGA) – Cathy Hayne

- Cathy Hayne declared her interest as a new Board member of Sheep CRC.
- Many comments from membership are around concerns of a lack of research and discontinuity of research.
- Need for continuing research for Barbers pole worm.
  - **AWI response:** AWI recognises the drench resistance and climate variability factors that make Barbers Pole a difficult problem to address. AWI are currently funding a project with Monaro Farming Systems that includes best practice demonstration of worm testing and control for Barbers Pole. AWI and MLA also fund ParaBoss, which includes smart grazing advice related to management of Barbers Pole Worm.
- Complimented AWI’s marketing efforts, however there are first-hand reports where brands have used the wrong wool in knitwear. Noted an Australian brand jumper that developed holes after 3 wears. Suggests need for marketing advice to retailers explaining how to determine what wool they need to source to manufacture different garments.
  - **AWI response:** AWI noted that retailers have complex sourcing departments and it’s possible they’re scaling back the quality of the wool they use to meet their price margins. AWI noted that they provide training to retailers and
brands on sourcing the right wool for different products. AWI will follow up with the retailer in question if they are provided with the product number, however it was also stressed that nothing speaks louder to a brand than consumer feedback.

• Would like to see marketing target superfine wools, particularly Chinese brands.
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted that it has been working with Chinese labels for over 12 years, including the establishment of a specific category in the International Woolmark Prize for China - with over 100 Chinese designers now part of the Prize’s alumni. AWI are currently working with over 20 designers for the new ‘50 years of Wool Trade with China’ campaign, noting that so much of the wool that used to go to China was manufactured and exported go out, whereas now more of the clip is staying for the Chinese consumer.

• Noted AWI’s Lifetime Ewe Management program is a good program that has supported 4,300 woolgrowers, however it doesn’t reach far enough into the woolgrower base. Need for greater reach – for example, there is no group in the New England area – and for greater communications to get the word out.
  o **AWI response:** AWI acknowledges there is a need for increased promotion of LTEM to achieve its strategic target of participants. AWI are looking at training more LTEM Trainers, and have developed shorter ½ day workshops to lead into LTEM or for the LTEM alumni to participate in. AWI noted that while 8% of the woolgrower population had participated in LTEM, these growers represent 30% of the national ewe flock.

• Concerns around the wind-up of Sheep CRC that there won’t be a body dedicated to undertaking research into genomics for woolgrowers past June 2019. Key issue is how to determine what research is important for woolgrowers over next 5-10 years and concerns that if AWI doesn’t lead the research priority setting, it will result in duplication.
  o **AWI response:** The National Wool RD&E Strategy incorporates and cross-references a wide range of national and state industry plans and strategies. The Strategy is due to expire in 2020 and work will shortly begin on a new industry plan. AWI also has a three-year Strategic Plan that is developed following industry consultation. The current Strategic Plan is due to expire at the end of 2018/19, and AWI is starting consultation on the new Strategic Plan. There is opportunity to address this matter through both channels.

• Need for a dramatically different approach to shearing and wool handling, which hasn’t changed in over 100 years. With the increase in fencing in Queensland, it’s expected that more people will be going back into wool, creating additional strain on demand for shearers and wool handlers. Concerns also being raised by trainers around the adequacy of wool classer training and the adverse impact of TAFE funding cuts on training.
  o **AWI response:** AWI agrees this is a critical issue for woolgrowers, being the largest production cost, subsequently it is a key priority for investment. Since 2015, AWI has delivered more than 3,899 shearer and wool handler training days to more than 16,665 people at all skill levels - from novices to professionals – to improve productivity and achieve best practice standards. This in-shed training is available nationwide and AWI encourages woolgrowers to contact AWI if they would like to run shearer or wool handler training in their sheds. AWI noted that classer training was an AWEX issue.

• Query around the future of stencilling with the introduction of WoolQ and ID tags in wool bales.
  o **AWI response:** AWI advised that they have been undertaking research into digital tags for bales using long range Bluetooth (to complement our ear tag technology) with Android phones acting as receivers. The technology aims to
date and time stamp the bale and its location. AWEX is also currently looking at bale tag technology, however theirs runs on RFID, rather than Bluetooth. This technology may make stencilling unnecessary. Current barcoding on top of bales could potentially be incorporated into WoolQ.

- Request for update on ear tag technology research.
  - **AWI response:** AWI advised that they are currently trialling ear tag technology on around 5,000 sheep, with tests gauging the impacts of shearing and of different plastic casing compositions. The solar cell being used in the tag has been expanded to provide a longer life, with the first trials failing because of battery issues. Trials are so far very successful, with future R&D set to look at the algorithms around the movement of animals to understand more about animal behaviour.

**Australian Wool Growers Association (AWGA) – Martin Oppenheimer**

- Main concern for woolgrowers across the country is the ongoing poor season and outlook for next summer. Noted that it’s affecting joinings in the south and will put on hold any hope of national flock expansion.
- Waiting to see how the Minister will respond to the Review of Performance (ROP) report by EY. Many are happy that the EMI has reached 2000c/kg, however there are calls for change in how levy is managed and governance of AWI including a more representative and skilled Board. It was noted that programs such as genetics show how the levy spend is not working for industry and is evidence of a lack of vision for industry. Looking forward to the Board’s response to the ROP.
  - **AWI response:** AWI noted that industry has had the opportunity to raise issues with EY as part of the ROP. The review has been extremely thorough and AWI has been very cooperative providing all information requested by EY. AWI will consider all recommendations and any subsequent action required once it receives the final report.

**Broad wool breeds – Nick Cole (Australian Corriedale’s Association, ACA)**

- Reaffirmed that the adequacy of classer training is a continuing problem, noting that the current training is very fragmented, too spread out and not sufficient.
  - **AWI response:** AWI noted that classer training was an AWEX issue.
- Would like to see more done with interior textiles and industrial wool – particularly around working to have special premiums with insurance companies for fire ratings.
  - **AWI response:** AWI advised that work on interiors is undertaken through the Campaign for Wool, which AWI is a major sponsor. AWI will provide an update to the ICC on the work of the Campaign for Wool.

**Pastoralists and Graziers of WA (PGA) – Chris Patmore**

- Appreciate AWI’s work on wild dog control and the AWI Wild Dog Coordinator.
- Noted Sheep Producers Australia and National Farmers Federation are leading the industry response on live exports. Acknowledge AWI’s support in 2014 with the commissioning of the Centre for International Economics (CIE) report on the import of a live export ban on the wool industry.
  - **AWI response:** AWI noted that the CIE report came about as a request from the ICC in 2013. AWI have commissioned CIE to update the report and are expecting a draft shortly, which will be circulated to industry groups.
- Encourage research on the fly genome and look forward to AWI’s upcoming breech strike update.
  - **AWI response:** AWI’s annual breech strike R&D update will be held on 17 July 2018.
• Request support from AWI for the prospectus that has is currently being developed by WA’s Sheep Alliance.
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted they have provided initial funding to support the development of the prospectus, and will work closely with Sheep Alliance to identify projects and ensure they align with AWI’s Strategic Plan. Any project proposals will be assessed through AWI’s normal approvals process.
• Commend AWI’s shearer and wool handler training. Currently seeing an abundance of shearers and classers in the industry, but not a lot of shed staff.
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted that it provides support for shed staff training.

**WoolProducers Australia (WPA) – Ed Storey**

• Noted that industry hadn’t offered remedies to address the issues raised in the 60 Minutes story.
• Noted concerns from a group in SA that classer training is too long and too expensive. WPA have taken it to AWEX to see that the trainers get balance right. Issues arising with growers moving to 6-8 month shearing, which is resulting in disjointed work that is contributing to lack of continuity and professional development.
  o **AWI response:** AWI notes this view is different to the advice provided in the letter from ICC members to AWEX. ICC members requested WPA seek a response from AWEX on their letter.
• Query whether there is a point in future where Australia can’t supply the quality and type of wool that the market needs. Does AWI see this as a big risk and will there be a point where lack of supply becomes a problem to the industry?
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted that the market treats wool as a luxury fibre. AWI’s marketing strategy targets luxury brands to affect a trickle-down effect, and believes the market is sustainable at the high end. While there are macroeconomic factors that may impact global trade (such as trade wars), supply is expected to remain steady and the consumer trends of sustainability and casualisation will remain. AWI notes that competitive land issues are a concern, particularly with the next generation of tech-savvy farmers coming through and the current good prices across most commodities.
• Request for an update on training being undertaken by the AWI Executive.
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted that the AWI Chair and Global Communications Manager have undertaken media training. The CEO has undertaken media training in the past and is planning to undertake further media training, along with other staff members that may benefit from training.
• Requested an update on AWI’s proposal for all woolgrowers to have access to Woolmark stencils for their bales and query around what area of market failure the proposal addresses.
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted that the proposal is in the very early stages and will provide an update at the next ICC meeting. The proposal is trying to trace Australian wool bales from farm, using the Woolmark logo, down the supply chain. AWI noted that there’s an increasing expectation from consumers for traceability, but that they will take advice from the ICC if they believe the initiative should not proceed.
• Concern that CLiK sheep blowfly treatment is no longer lasting as long.
  o **AWI response:** AWI noted that through the work being undertaken in the fly genome R&D program, researchers can fast track their research in a range of other areas such as drug, vaccine, and biological control targets.

**Don Brown Ewe Competition (DBEC) – Tom Kirk**

• Noted communications with AWI are good and frequent updates are received.
• Noted shareholders ability to influence the Board through Director elections.
**AWI response:** All eligible levy payers (who have paid $100 or more in wool levy over the past 3 years) can elect to become shareholders of AWI and vote at AGMs and in Director elections.

- Lambing is a major priority, noting the Merino ewe doesn’t lamb as well as other breeds. Requested more research into lambing percentages.
  - **AWI response:** AWI is currently undertaking research projects into optimising lamb survival through mob size and density, metabolic disorders in pregnant ewes, improving prediction of ovine foetal age, identifying ewes with greater reproduction efficiency and the use of sensor technology for parentage and monitoring. AWI has also developed extension programs to support growers to increase their lambing percentages including new half day workshops - Winning with Weaners, Realising Productivity Potential - and AWI’s successful Lifetime Ewe Management program.

- Concern that shearing is stopping many people from coming back into the industry.
  - **AWI response:** AWI is heavily focused on the alternative wool harvesting technology space. AWI has contracted an innovation team to further their early stage prototype elements for automated Wool harvesting. AWI has also commenced a scoping study to understand the technical challenges pertinent to the development of semi-autonomous robotic shearing systems.

- Support current marketing activities and believe they are going well.
- Believe that outcomes for R&D for bare breech are a long way off, and will fight against production.
  - **AWI response:** AWI is currently exploring fly genome R&D initiatives to assist woolgrowers in managing and minimising the impacts of flystrike.

**Update from Department of Agriculture, Water and Resources**

- In the recent Budget, the Government allocated $224 million to support exports and biosecurity. $51 million will be put towards increasing the number of Agricultural Counsellors posted in key export markets. $121 million has been allocated to increase biosecurity efforts, including to address the exponential growth that has been seen in online shopping. Funds have also been allocated to address pests and weeds. The Government has also provided $6.3 million to improve access to new minor use chemicals to address market gaps.

- Drought support is available for producers in the form of Rural Financial Counsellors, the farm household allowance (now extended to a cumulative receipt period of 4 years), and farm business concessional loans (which will be delivered by the Regional Investment Corporation from 1 July).

- On live exports, the Minister is keen to put trade on a sustainable footing to meet community standards and provide export income. The government launched a series of reviews, with the major McCarthy Review having now been completed and released. The Minister accepted all of the recommendations. Work is currently underway to develop a practical, reliable and consistent heat-stress risk assessment model to apply to future regulatory requirements. The Minister has also commissioned a review into DAWR into the capability, culture and investigative powers of DAWR in regulating the trade.
  - **AWI noted that it is not aware of any concerns from the wool supply chain.**

**AWI report back - current activities and finances**

AWI briefed ICC members on the following:

- Update on WoolPoll 2018 and a recap of the appointment of the WoolPoll Panel, and the roles and responsibilities for AWI and the Panel.
- AWGA would like to see the levy rate options and supporting information made available at the launch of WoolPoll to enable time for industry debate.
  - **AWI response**: AWI suggested this go back to the WoolPoll Panel for consideration as the body established to address all WoolPoll related matters. This was agreed by ICC members.

- Update on the independent Review of Performance currently being undertaken by EY. AWI welcomes the review and has been fully cooperative in providing any information requested by EY. The level of detail EY is going to has been very forensic and surpasses any previous reviews. The final report is expected to be released by the Minister in July.
  - DAWR noted the report will contain recommendations and will identify areas where AWI has performed well and other areas to be improved.

- Update on AWI's on-farm R&D activities in the Sheep Production portfolio and extension activities in the Woolgrower Services portfolio.
  - In relation to the Merino Lifetime Productivity (MLP) project, AWI noted it is keen to finalise negotiations with MLA, University of New England and NSW Department of Primary Industries so that industry can fully utilise the phenotype and genotype data, analysed results and updated methodologies derived from the project. However, MLA are yet to provide an indication of their position. ICC members requested a further background briefing on this matter to make representations to MLA.
  - AWGA requested further information on the commercialisation intent for AWI's ear tag technology.

- Report on the current market analysis noting that supply can't keep up with demand, and the main problem is trying to keep people from going into competing industries. Best prices are being seen by 18-22 micron wool, and prices can be sustainable if the industry can keep in touch with the consumer. Sportswear is the biggest trend at present with the market seeking soft handling, next to skin wool in performance wear.
  - AWGA asked whether there’s a downside to prem shorn wool.
    - **AWI response**: AWI indicated that anything under 60mm in length is running a risk.

- Update on AWI's off-farm product innovation and education activities in the Processing Innovation and Education Extension portfolio. Noted that over the past 5 years, there’s been a significant increase in demand for wool from the supply chain as a result of AWI's constant, consistent messaging and the rise of consumer importance on sustainability and natural products.
### SHEEP PRODUCTION DELIVERABLES 2017/18

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<th>DELIVERABLES / TARGETS</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<td>2. Breech modification alternatives commercialised.</td>
<td>2. Revised target to “Viable breech modification technologies available for commercialisation”. The Liquid Nitrogen Procedure research will discontinue as welfare impact cannot be mitigated with current analgesics or anaesthetics. SkinTraction is registered with APVMA, but no product is being produced due to lack of demand (a non-commercial offer). Further R&amp;D needs strong private sector element.</td>
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<td>3. Development of an ASBV for faecal consistency.</td>
<td>3. Target removed. AWI have not been able to get AGBU to prioritise this, so target was not able to be achieved.</td>
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<td>4. Improved laboratory diagnostic testing for worms and larvae.</td>
<td>4. In progress. 90 samples from 30 mobs tested with old and new methods at last report.</td>
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<td>5. Sustained increase in grower utilisation of the ParaBoss website.</td>
<td>5. In progress. Survey on grower use currently in planning stages.</td>
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<td>6. Wool bale decontamination and disinfection procedures developed.</td>
<td>6. In progress. 3% citric acid tested on bales complete and testing on the mobility of the spray unit is underway.</td>
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<td>VERTEBRATE PESTS</td>
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<td>1. Effective national and regional coordination of vertebrate pest control effort in sheep producing areas.</td>
<td>1. Achieved. Queensland Coordinators now appointed with new joint-contributions from MLA secured.</td>
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<td>2. Effective assistance to producer groups to establish the basis for sustainable long-term vertebrate pest control programs.</td>
<td>2. On target. Almost a quarter of the wild dog groups that received funding for infrastructure saw an average reduction of 93% in sheep losses; 85% of the groups that received funding for direct killing tools saw an average reduction of 95% in sheep losses.</td>
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<td>3. 15 new community based vertebrate pest control groups established each year, bringing to a total of 165 group supported by end 2018/19, with the value of avoided stock loss (sheep) greater than costs to wool growers and AWI combined.</td>
<td>3. Achieved. Target updated to “Maintain support to existing funded groups and expand to other vertebrate pests.” There are currently 47 groups, with 170 groups supported to date.</td>
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<td>4. Support for programs which enhance producers ability to efficiently and effectively control Rabbits in the long term.</td>
<td>4. On target. RHDVK5 released at 382 sites, achieving a mortality rate of 38%.</td>
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<td>REPRODUCTION</td>
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<td>1. An extra 1500 AWI-funded participants in LTEM (500 per annum), representing 15% of the adult ewe flock in Australia, that increase lamb weaning rates by 7%, and reduce ewe mortality by 30%.</td>
<td>1. In progress. 1,404 participants enrolled. With one year to go, potential that the target may not be met if the poor seasonal conditions are not reversed and additional trainers do not become accredited LTEM deliverers. Preliminary survey data on weaning rates and lamb mortality not yet available.</td>
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<td>2. At least 250 producers engaged in determining the impact of lambing density (ewe mob size and stocking rate) on lamb survival.</td>
<td>2. In progress. 176 producer sites and funding to expand to pastoral.</td>
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<td>3. At least 200 producers engaged in developing the strategies and guidelines for improving weaner and maiden ewe performance.</td>
<td>3. Grower numbers will not be achieved due to delays in developing the Winning With Weaners workshop. Revised target to “Strategies to improve weaner and maiden ewe performance developed.” New Winning With Weaners workshop piloted with 19 growers and 60 attendees planned.</td>
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<td>4. Undertake market research on a range of producer and industry segments to inform; (i) strategies that enhance producer engagement, (ii) design/pilot extension approaches that increase adoption of best practice, (iii) more thorough evaluation of whole farm impacts of LTEM, and (iv) quantify the degree and reasons for Merino ewe displacement.</td>
<td>4. Target removed as considered operational.</td>
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<td>GENETIC IMPROVEMENT</td>
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<td>1. At least 3,800 Merino ewe progeny being evaluated for lifetime productivity across at least 5 regionally representative sites, in partnership with Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association.</td>
<td>1. On target – target expected to be exceeded. 135 unique sires, 5 sites, FI ewe base 19,409, 2,694 joined as of April but expect to meet the 3,800 target across the sites.</td>
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<td>2. Routine, low-cost per head alternatives to genomic parentage technology in wide commercial use for mothering-up Merino lambs.</td>
<td>2. On target. Still working with plastics for the tag housing to get the final ear tag product durable. Technology works - radio beacons on collars. Solar panels work.</td>
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<td>3. Australian sheep breeders maintain access to consolidated and improved wether trial, central test sire evaluation and MERINOSELECT databases.</td>
<td>3. On target. Breeders have access to all forms of evaluations listed (wether trials, AMSEA and MERINOSELECT), and AWI are funding R&amp;D to enhance and improve the evaluations. In new developments with the MLP data access and analysis agreement, MLA have now asked AWI to draft a contract.</td>
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| **Farm Automation & Software Development** | 1. Develop and demonstrate across sheep production systems smart sheep ear tags capable of generating maternal pedigree, automatic geo-location, and welfare alerts, and integrating with virtual fencing advances.  
2. Assess and improve the understanding and application of data collected by sensor technology.  
3. Develop software to maximise benefits of sensor technology for farmers. | 1. In progress. Currently contracting with CQUniversity on alerts.  
2. In progress. Proximity sensors being trialled, and accelerometer trials are currently in contract negotiations.  
3. In Progress. Algorithms (software) is developed for proximity for maternal parentage and other algorithm development opportunities are in contract negotiations. |
| **Feedbase & Fibre Advocacy** | 1. Generate significant improvement in wool's environmental footprint ratings, and strengthen wool's reputation for environmental stewardship.  
2. Through better understanding of constraints to grower investment in pasture renovation, increase adoption of beneficial feedbase practices with currently modest adoption rates – reaching 20% of all growers by 2018.  
3. Prepare woolgrowers for the effects of climate change - by 2019, 50% of woolgrowers will have implemented climate change mitigating or adapting technologies without loss of profit. | 1. In progress. Microplastics research published, garment life use research published. Findings are being taken through IWTO to use their influence to advocate changes to various “sustainability index” rankings of wool.  
2. In planning phase - target revised as grower numbers will not be achieved due to late start of workshop development with the draft brand of feedbase fit. New target is “Increase adoption of beneficial feedbase practices by 20% by 2021.”  
3. On target. Surveys showing change through existing actions and best practices |
| **FIBRE ADVOCACY** | 1. Internationalize studies demonstrating that Merino base-layer garments ameliorate chronic skin conditions associated with microclimate management of the skin.  
2. Demonstrate that wool bedding and sleepwear improves sleeping conditions.  
3. Support development of product market opportunities in categories such as corporate wear, safety wear, medical product and infants wear.  
4. Develop specifications for next-to-skin wear to improve reliability and consumer confidence in Merino baselayer garments. | 1. On target. Contracts currently being negotiated with international dermatologists.  
2. Achieved. Sleep study published demonstrating wool supports a less fragmented, makes you fall asleep quicker, and decreases total wake time.  
3. On target. A study has assessed demand for fire resistant baselayers to be a 3 fibre blend with wool being one (alongside aramid and cellulosic that are flame resistant). Research on this blend is progressing. Research into infant wear and medical products is related to targets 1 and 4.  
4. On target. Draft specifications for next-to-skin wear to improve reliability and consumer confidence have been developed. |
OVERVIEW OF AWI’S TRAINING AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

State Networks Coordinator Contacts

AWI encourages all woolgrowers to become members of their State Network to stay informed on industry events and information. It’s best way to keep up to date with the latest research and innovations that growers can be adopting for their business. AWI State Network websites host webinar recordings, tools, resources and more.

To register, please contact your relevant AWI State Network Coordinator:

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<th>AWI GROWER NETWORK</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
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<tr>
<td>SheepConnect Tas</td>
<td>James Tyson</td>
<td>0409 006 774</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.tyson@utas.edu.au">james.tyson@utas.edu.au</a></td>
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Half-day workshops

New half day workshops include:
- Realising Performance Potential
- Winning With Weaners
- RAMping Up Repro

Events and workshops available for woolgrowers are not limited to the above. To see the current suite of events, please visit the events pages on your relevant AWI State Network websites.

To register:
For workshop expressions of interest, please contact your relevant AWI State Network Coordinator above.
**Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM)**

The Lifetime Ewe Management program runs over the 12-month weaning to weaning cycle. The timing of each meeting is linked to critical stages in the management of the ewe's reproductive cycle. All sessions involve a visit to each participant's farm and focus on condition scoring, pasture assessing and feed budgeting activities that are practical and applicable to the farm business.

The program also focuses on improving producer understanding of the influences ewe nutrition has on the performance of the ewe and her progeny.

The Lifetime Ewe Management workshop provides a pathway for woolgrowers to develop a successful and productive animal production system.


To register:
Email info@rist.edu.au or call 03 5573 0943

For more information, contact:
Meg Bell, National Lifetime Ewe Management Leader (Acting)
mbell@rist.edu.au
Tel: 03 5573 0990

**Shearer and Wool Handler Training**

AWI’s in-shed shearer and wool handler training aims to attract and retain shearers and wool handlers by building capacity through training, improving working conditions through best practice OH&S and shed design, and promoting shearing and wool handling as a profession and sport through competitions. This training is available nation wide.

To register and for further information, contact:
Jim Murray, AWI Shearing Industry Development Program Manager
jim.murray@wool.com
Tel: +61 2 8295 3180
Mob: +61 427 460 007

**‘It’s Ewe Time’**

Forums are currently being rolled out with MLA in NSW and QLD this July and August. For a full listing of the ‘It’s ewe time’ forum’s and where to register see the link below, the attached flyer provides the agenda, location, topics and speakers for the Cooma, Gunned and Cowra series. The August event flyers are yet to be finalised.

Register here:

For more information, contact:
Anne Collins, National Coordinator, MLA/AWI “It’s ewe time” Forums
AWI drought resources

AWI has a range of drought planning, management and recovery resources available for woolgrowers going into, enduring and recovering from drought.

ABOUT RAMPING UP REPRO™

RAMPing Up Repro (RUR) is a hands-on workshop focussed on improving ram performance and working longevity in commercial sheep enterprises.

The workshop is designed increase the skill of producers across the key components of ram performance and impacts on overall breeding enterprise performance, including:

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Spermatogenesis
- Metabolic demands
- Health, disease & biosecurity
- Financial impact of the ram team

Each participant is guided through a thorough pre-joining ram inspection by an accredited workshop deliverer and given the opportunity to increase their practical skills to undertake this in their own operation. This workshop is designed to give attendees the confidence to incorporate these skills into their own routine management, thus improving the performance of their rams.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR WOOLGROWERS

Producers will learn practical skills including:

- Identification of anatomical structures and knowledge of physiology directly impacting on the ability of the ram to serve and perform
- The ability to perform a thorough pre-joining ram inspection, regarding critical structures and timing
- The principles and skill of condition scoring and its impact on ram team management
- A sound understanding of the animal health, disease and biosecurity considerations that need to be considered when managing a ram or ram team for a successful joining

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

9:00 AM Workshop introduction
- Pre-joining ram inspection - theory
- Pre-joining ram inspection - practical
11:00 AM Morning tea
11:20 AM Ram economics
- Ram health
- Vaccination site & technique
- Ram management
1:00 PM Lunch & discussion
2:30 PM Close

WHEN AND WHERE

Workshops are run on a demand basis through AWI’s State Grower Networks across Australia. To see upcoming workshops in your region, go to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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<td>Ian McFarland</td>
<td>0437 659 353</td>
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<td>The Sheep’s Back (WA)</td>
<td>Andrew Ritchie</td>
<td>08 9736 1055</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrew@iconag.com.au">andrew@iconag.com.au</a></td>
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WOOL.COM

Australian Wool Innovation Limited gratefully acknowledge the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication, GD2828
ABOUT RPP
The AWI developed and funded RPP workshop is designed for wool producers aiming to lift lifetime performance from their Merino ewes. RPP identifies key practical actions for commercial enterprises to implement on farm to achieve this performance aim.

RPP assists the commercial self-replacing Merino production sector in recognising and placing appropriate importance on the total lifetime productivity potential and value of their Merino ewes (fleece, meat and surplus stock) and aims to achieve a minimum weaning rate of 95% from Merino joinings.

RPP is designed to complement the AWI-funded Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) Program and provide pathways into other AWI supported training opportunities.

THE 5 KEY THEMES OF RPP
1. Understand ewe lifetime performance – passengers vs. performers
2. Lift ewe performance as a National Priority
3. 3 key performance practices:
   - scan
   - condition score
   - wet/dry at marking
4. Turning potential to profit – lamb and wean well
5. Strategies for success – management calendar

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RPP
• single day workshop (9:00am - 2:30pm)
• conducted through AWI’s State Grower Networks
• 15 - 25 participants per workshop
• fully catered
• $75 per person
• delivered by an accredited deliverers

ATTENDEES RECEIVE
• full set of workshop notes
• ewe management calendar
• checklist for use in their own operation
• information on pathways for future learning

WHEN AND WHERE
Workshops are run on a demand basis through AWI’s State Grower Networks across Australia. To see upcoming workshops in your region, go to:

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Wool.com
Australian Wool Innovation Limited gratefully acknowledge the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication. GD2440
**WINNING WITH WEANERS (WWW)**

**ABOUT WINNING WITH WEANERS™**

The Winning With Weaners™ (WWW) workshop is designed for woolgrowers, and is aimed at improving weaner management of their Merino flock, targeting 95% weaner survival to one year of age. WWW identifies key practical actions and tools for commercial enterprises to implement on farm to achieve this performance aim.

WWW assists participants in understanding the key issues affecting weaner survival and performance and guides them through developing targets for growth for this key cohort of sheep. The workshops discuss factors that contribute to weaner mortality and illthrift, and provides practical pathways for improving performance from this group of sheep.

**THE KEY THEMES OF WINNING WITH WEANERS**

1. Understand the impact of weaning weight on the survival of weaners to first joining
2. Understanding weaner nutrition - in terms of both energy and protein
3. Setting weaner weight targets
4. Understanding the importance of weaner management on lifetime performance of breeding ewes
5. Strategies for success – management calendar

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WWW**

- single day workshop
- conducted through AWI’s State Grower Networks
- 15 - 25 participants per workshop
- fully catered
- $75 per person
- delivered by accredited deliverers

**ATTENDEES RECEIVE**

- a full set of workshop notes
- useful tools that will assist with monitoring and planning for successful weaner management
- a checklist for use in their own operation

**WHEN AND WHERE**

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**WOOL.COM**

Australian Wool Innovation Limited gratefully acknowledge the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication. GD2823
THE SHEEP INDUSTRY’S POPULAR SERIES OF FORUMS ARE BACK!

- Alpine Hotel, Cooma, NSW: Tuesday 24 July
- Gunning Shire Hall, Gunning, NSW: Wednesday 25 July
- Cowra Services Club, Cowra, NSW: Thursday 26 July

FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER AT: www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/events or call 1800 070 099
### Making More From Sheep

**It’s ewe time! Forums**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td><strong>Introduction (Chair) inc. Meat &amp; Wool Outlook</strong></td>
<td>AWI</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20</td>
<td><strong>Managing Ewes in Dry Times</strong></td>
<td>Megan Rogers, SheepSMART Solutions, Forbes, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:55</td>
<td><strong>Maximising Lamb Performance (Cooma)</strong></td>
<td>Doug Alcock, Graz Prophet Consulting, Cooma, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:55</td>
<td><strong>Maximising Weaner Performance (Gunning &amp; Cowra)</strong></td>
<td>Geoff Duddy, Sheep Solutions, Oman Ama, QLD</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td><strong>Measuring to Manage</strong></td>
<td>Hamish Dickson, AgriPartner Consulting, Clare, SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>MORNING TEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td><strong>Your Sheep Health is Your Wealth (Cooma and Gunning)</strong></td>
<td>Matt Playford, Dawbuts, Camden, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td><strong>Your Sheep Health is Your Wealth (Cowra)</strong></td>
<td>Bruce Watt, Central Tablelands LLS, Bathurst NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05</td>
<td><strong>Extending Positive Price Cycles (Cooma &amp; Gunning)</strong></td>
<td>Simon Vogt, Rural Directions, Clare, SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05</td>
<td><strong>Effective Integration of Livestock and Cropping (Cowra)</strong></td>
<td>Simon Vogt, Rural Directions, Clare, SA</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
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