

WOOL INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE PANEL (WICP)

Date: 29 July 2025

Venue: Via Microsoft Teams and at Level 2, 345 George St Sydney – King Meeting Room.

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

AWI Business Unit Update

AWI Chair and CEO gave the WICP the following updates.

- AWI continues to streamline the company. In some areas this has meant downsizing and restructuring so that the company can work within its reduced budget going forward.
- There is no evidence that China prefers South African Wool over Australian wool. In fact, comments from traders revealed that the market prioritises Australian wool and will only seek wool from competing nations when there is a material price difference.



- Work into bio-harvesting continues to progress well at the Adelaide University. Investment in this area is currently targeting the weakening agent. Despite the reduced budget, work will continue with this research program.
- During the 24/25 year, AWTA tested 295.4mkg. This is down 11% from the previous year with WA seeing the largest decline interstate, its production reduced by 21%. Buyers are slowly becoming more aware of the potential supply issues due to the drop in merino numbers.
- The EMI is up approximately 8% over the financial year period, with the largest increases centred around the 19-22micron areas.
- For the 24/25 financial year, AWI has trained and upskilled 4,267 participants across 1,406 AWI training days. The concentration and investment into training days in recent years has succeeded with shearing and shed hands now in adequate supply. A total of 65 Learner toolkits have been issued to full time learner shearers.
- The 2025 financials are currently being audited. From a high level the business appears to have completed the FY approximately \$3.8M ahead of budget, with full details to be disclosed in the annual report.

Constitution Update

The AWI AGM is to be held on the 14th November 2025 and the Board will recommend that shareholders vote in favour of 3 proposed changes. In summary, these changes are-

- 1) The Wool Services Privatisation Act 2000 has been repealed and replaced with a new modernised legislative framework
- 2) With the repeal of the Wool Services Privatisation Act 2000, the existing rules around wool levy polling no longer apply. It is proposed to amend the constitution to allow the company to conduct a poll in accordance with the rules set by the Minister of the day.
- 3) Updating the section to align with the latest Statutory Funding Agreement.

International Intelligence Briefing

Jeff Ma – China Country Manager

- There is a notable shift in consumer preference with growing interest in lightweight wool clothing. And the ICICLE 75micron wool collection has earned a good reputation for its comfortable style and feel.
- Only 10% of the Australian wool clip is imported into the US via China.

Summarised feedback from the Panel to AWI

- Messages, webinars etc to the industry need to be pertinent, direct and time conscious.
- Market sentiment appears to be turning, with the material rise in the price of merino lambs assisting this.
- Minimal feedback from industry around the recently released Strategic Plan.

Department Of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- The priorities for the new government are Biosecurity and improving productivity.
- The recent lifting of Biosecurity restrictions on US Beef which was recently announced was off the back of 10 years investigation and due diligence.

Nick Turner

WICP Independent Chair