

WOOL INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE PANEL (WICP)

Date: 11 February 2026

Venue: Via Microsoft Teams and at Level 3, 24 York Street Sydney

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.

- A summary of the company's YTD financial statement to the 31st December 2025 is as follows,

	YTD 25/25 '000's	Budget YTD 25/26 '000's
Total Income	34,878	35,137
Total Expenses	25,363	28,648
Net Profit	9,515	6,489

Income is in line with budget, whilst expenses are below, creating a favourable result for the first 6 months of the financial year.

- For the first 6 months of the financial year, AWTA volumes have been approximately 9% less than the same period 12 months ago. This decline has been offset by the increasing EMI.
- Marketing continues to be focused on China. The focus on health and wellness by the Chinese has expanded the sports and lifestyle wool market. Base layer trials are ongoing with the ANTA Sports Group that also own several related brands.
- 75 learner shearers have attended an AWI novice shearing course this financial year.
- Wool's strategic role continues to focus on the following traits,
 - Natural and health focussed
 - Performance capable
 - Premium and sustainable
 - Differentiation

WICP Feedback to AWI

- The shearer training days have been extremely successful with the panel asking to expand to include more time on crutching. AWI have asked in what specific states the current demand is, so that funds can be directed to the high priority areas.
- Confidence appears to be returning to both the livestock and wool industries in WA
- The panel asked for education related to the implementation of identity tags so that the full range of benefits could be understood by producers.

Market Intelligence Update

Stephen Hill GM International

- Tariffs and the emotions surrounding them have settled down.
- Wool imports and exports have decreased by 10% in all supply chain destinations in line with production data
- Opportunities continue across the board within China. In particular in made to measure suiting which is growing by double digits, demonstrating customers' preference for premium products.

Department Of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

WoolPoll

The department has distributed a discussion paper. Key areas for discussion and feedback are,

- 1) The current minimum threshold is \$100 of levies, paid over 3 years. This figure was set in 2003. Should this be adjusted to reflect CPI, or should there be a minimum at all? (which may be even more cost effective)
- 2) The 2024 Woolpoll cost \$400K, what changes can be made for it to be more cost effective?
- 3) Should the current 3-year poll cycle be continued, or should a different poll cycle be adopted?
- 4) Is the preferential voting system the best or are there any other voting systems which should be considered?
- 5) Should the WoolPoll panel continue to be used?
- 6) What rates should be shown on the ballot paper, if any at all?

The department is seeking feedback by the 27th February 2026.

Nick Turner

WICP Independent Chair