

## **WOOL INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE PANEL (WICP)**

**Date:** 25 November 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.

- The company has seen some material changes within key personal over recent months. The current CEO, John Roberts, has announced his resignation but will continue through to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2026. Also, the Chair of the AWI Board, Jock Laurie, has stepped down after serving 10 years on the Board which is the limit for the position.
- The Australian Wool Traceability hub continues to be a major opportunity, and all major brokers have agreed (in principle) to sign up. The AWTA now own and operate the Traceability Hub. Current volumes of wool being tracked through the platform is 60%, AWI has a target of 85% of all wool produced to go through this platform which has many benefits, one of which is biosecurity.
- Recent market movements, whilst volatile, have been positive for the wool grower and AWI continues to focus on having a profitable wool grower.
- The recent price rises have primarily come about due to a supply crisis which has been signalled by AWI to end users for a period of time.
- For the period ending 31/10/25, the business is operating approximately \$3.5M ahead of budget.
- For the period July – October 2025 AWTA data shows that amount of wool tested YOY has declined by approximately 9.2%. During this same period the EMI in AUD terms has appreciated by 17%.
- The sportswear market in China continues to grow which is particularly notable for the fine and super-fine end of the market.
- After widespread consultation, some of the key areas of extension focus on the short term are summarised below,
  - Nutrition: stubble grazing, feed budgeting, containment feeding etc
  - Weaner management: growth targets
  - Worms: drench resistance, drench best practice
  - Sheep health and welfare: flies, disease etc
  - Reproduction: Mob sizes, condition scoring, joining length etc

### **AWEX Briefing**

*Charlie McElhone - CEO AWEX*

AWEX's role is to define industry standards and regulations. The focus is on sustainability and animal welfare.

The Australian Wool Certificate will continue to be a major priority with the aim of facilitating certification for wool growers.

Wool clip has now processed 1 million bales which is approximately 25% of the clip, its target is 100%. For this target to be reached a collaborative effort between wool growers, wool classers and brokers needs to occur.

## **Department Of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

### **WoolPoll**

As there is currently no regulatory instrument to conduct a WoolPoll at present, it provides an opportunity for the department to consult with industry around the below 3 points,

- 1) Should the current 3-year poll cycle be continued, or should a different poll cycle be adopted
- 2) Is the preferential voting system the best or are there any other voting systems which should be considered
- 3) Should the WoolPoll panel continue to be used

The department is seeking feedback on the above questions with a view to making a recommendation to the minister in Q2 of 2026.

Nick Turner

WICP Independent Chair