

Dear Review Panel,

I have found the job of making a submission to the review panel on the 6 phases within the scoped review frustrating.

If I leave the review after having only addressed issues within the phases (as I see them) I am frustrated by the knowledge that I have failed to address some of the issues concerning the long term future of wool procurement, sale in the raw form, sale in a value added form , transport and cost transparency of the wool industry.

However this is not what the WSSR is on about so I have cherry picked a number of issues which do not appear overtly in the issues paper but which may have merit in improving returns to those businesses operating within the parameters of the current system. **The primary focus of my submission is to maintain quality of the Australian product and improve where ever.**

Namely;

- 1) Reform the AWEX type setting protocols to elevate the prefix "M" to mean wool lines of the highest quality.

- i) This will mean that the definition of the "Comfort Factor" will change in name to "Colour fastness" and include additional test's that determine the grab samples (and the lines) handle and ability to take dye .

- ii) Wool lines that have the prefix "M" would be assessed on the basis of Micron; Colour fastness"; SCH DRY; Lgth; STR POB etc .

- iii) Adding "Colour fastness" may drive wool harvesting reform and quality control and if the new test for colour fastness could be extended to the immediate input side of the tops making process, quality control of the tops product ensured.

- iv) Link the new term "Colour fastness" to classer reformation to reinforce the practice of skirting all fribs, second cuts, off type wools, water affected wools, doggy wools , seamy backs and any other impediments to the products ability to "Handle" and take dye evenly.

- 2) Change the **woolpack design** to enable quick discharge into first stage processing of tops.

- i) Rather than having labour fight with the top of the bale and its fasteners – redesign the pack to have a zipper /Velcro's bottom for easy emptying.

- ii) Less foreign pieces in the scour

3) introduce a **regional** computerised automated store wool handling system such that the received wool is stored, prepared for testing and collated into buyers consignments post sale .

i) Each region to be set up progressively as funds are forthcoming from the wool levy and other sources. The facilities to be co-operatively owned and maybe linked to highly capitalised top making machines. Each regional facility competes with other regional facilities; market's its product and warrants the value and quality of its product.

Many of the issues exposed in the issues paper and the proposals for improvement I agree with! I would like them explored in more detail. It is not up to me to megaphone, prove or disprove the veracity of the claim. The veracity of the claims has to be explored in the Panel Discussion Paper!

However If these changes were made within the context of an overarching change in the Australian wool industry their relative impact might be greatly enhanced.

Despite Australia's poor industrial relations and cost structures as compared to the rest of the world it is worthwhile to consider that at least 75% of the nation's wool clip should be valued added either into tops or carbonised prior to export.

A regionally located wool handling, testing, value adding **co-operative** that providence brands and regionally defines its product (Top's), selling this value added product again via electronic measures could radically change the industry. This overarching change may give greater purpose to the changes sought in the WSSR.

Indeed I can foresee regionally located grower co-operatives ,financed by a mixture of grower contributions, collateralised debt, profit sharing schemes presale automated computer aided wool handling, testing and post-sale handling ; delivering providence branded product (Perth ,Adelaide, Tassie, Riverina , Tablelands and Queenslander wool tops) to another electronic point of sale, such that this process can guarantee the Australian made product.

Unfortunately these thoughts are outside the scope of the WSSR and therefore I conclude my submission by stating;

The simple and seemingly innocuous change from testing for "**comfort factor**" to testing for "**Colour fastness**" may indeed set up the industry for greater appeal well into the future.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on, and make a submission to the WSSR.

Yours faithfully,

R B Crawford