

# FLYSTRIKE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, EXTENSION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY 2022/2023 TO 2024/25

## VISION:

ENSURE THE LIFETIME WELFARE AND PRODUCTIVITY OF SHEEP AND REDUCE RELIANCE ON MULESING.

## BREEDING AND SELECTION

THE AIM: Long term solutions to advance lifetime welfare.

- Understand the welfare, performance and economic impacts of breeding for reduced flystrike.
- Increase the number of animals being recorded for the key flystrike risk traits.
- Increase the number of animals that are being phenotyped and genotyped for flystrike traits, seeking to have genomic enhanced ASBVs for the indicator traits and eventually flystrike itself.
- Create ASBVs for urine stain and faecal consistency.
- Assist woolgrowers to incorporate traits associated with flystrike resistance into their breeding objective and indexes.
- Provide access to the latest information and tools to support woolgrowers in breeding more flystrike resistant sheep to reduce their labour and reliance on chemical use, mulesing, size of mules, crutching.
- Track genetic trends for breech wrinkle, breech cover, dags, urine stain, wool colour, fleece rot and productivity.
- Highlight the reductions in risk due to mulesing and the task ahead for breeding to achieve similar outcomes.

## BREECH MODIFICATION PROCEDURES

THE AIM: Breech modification procedures to improve lifetime resistance to flystrike.

- Undertake further R&D to refine the application protocols for breech modification procedures.
- Support best practice mulesing training.



## MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

THE AIM: Improved management practices to reduce the risk of flystrike.

- Undertake monitoring and surveillance of blowfly chemical resistance.
- Commission additional research in flystrike management tools targeting the viability of the fly, including the validation of a blowfly resistance modelling tool.
- Invest in early trials of new potential actives and parasitic control treatments, and improved delivery methods, including on-going investigations into the use of nanotechnology and the development of a flystrike vaccine.

## EDUCATION, EXTENSION AND PROMOTION

THE AIM: Adoption of best practice strategies to improve the lifetime welfare of sheep, reduce reliance on mulesing and support transparency in the supply chain.

- Provide access to the latest information and tools to support woolgrowers in flystrike management, including breeding more flystrike resistant sheep to reduce their labour and reliance on chemical use, mulesing, crutching.
- Deliver grower extension on transitioning to a non mulesed enterprise.
- Monitor, evaluate and improve the success of education, training and extension activities.
- Promote the adoption of the NWD and market feedback to growers.
- Promote the use of analgesia and anaesthesia.
- Ongoing engagement with domestic and international stakeholders to ensure they understand best practice management of flystrike and welfare implications.

## ANALGESIA AND ANAESTHESIA

THE AIM: Improved provision of analgesia and anaesthesia.

- Investigate longer acting, cost effective anaesthesia and analgesia options.
- Extend advice on analgesia and anaesthesia to woolgrowers.