

Issue:

Australian Wool Innovation ('AWI') is required to make a single recommendation to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the wool levy rate every 3 years. WoolPoll provides wool levy payers with the opportunity to determine the proportion of their wool income to be allocated to fund wool marketing and research and development for the next 3 years.

Background:

- WoolPoll was last held in 2006, where growers elected to pay a levy of 2% of the gross proceeds of the wool clip.
- Currently, 60% of the levy goes towards marketing and off-farm product development and the other 40% goes to on-farm research and development.
- Under the Wool Privatisation Act 2000, AWI must present woolgrowers with five levy options, one of which must be zero. Accompanying the levy options AWI must also indicate on what types of investments the levy will be spent and in what proportions the levy will be allocated.
- A WoolPoll Panel has been set up to act as an independent scrutineer of the WoolPoll process and to make recommendations to AWI about the levy rates to be polled and the voter information memorandum and the ballot paper. This year the WoolPoll Panel consists of members from State Farming organisations, industry groups and breeding groups. The panel members include:
Will Roberts (QLD), Chairman, Don Hamblin (NSW), President of Wool Producers Australia, Max Watts (WA), Wool Section President of the Western Australian Farmers Federation, Helen Cathles (NSW), Vice President of the Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association, Brent Finlay (QLD), Sheep and Wool President of Agforce Queensland, Tom Ashby (SA), Vice President of the Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders, Chris Komor (NSW), representative of the Australian Wool Growers Association and Jock MacRae (VIC), President of the Victorian Stud Merino Breeders

2009 WoolPoll

- There are five levy rate options included in the 2009 WoolPoll vote: 3%, 2.5%, 2%, 1% and 0%.

WoolPoll 2009 Timetable:

Activity	Date
Levy payers advised of voting entitlements	3 September 2009
Voting entitlement cut-off date	11 September 2009
Voting kits mailed to levy payers	25 September 2009
Deadline for levy payers to cast votes	6 November 2009
Announcement of WoolPoll result at AWI AGM	20 November 2009
Date from which voted rate is applicable	1 July 2010

For further information contact:

Australian Wool Innovation on 1800 070 099 or NSW Farmers' Association 1300 794 000