

Sheepmeats

Animal Health

Footrot

AC 07 That the Association lobby to have the regulation that allows quarantined foot rot affected flocks to move from one RLPB to another RLPB, be amended to prevent such movement.

Ovine Brucellosis

97 Oct GC That the Association seek that NSW Agriculture take whatever steps are necessary to enable NSW to be declared free of Ovine Brucellosis.

AC 94 That the Association request NSW Agriculture to implement a Brucellosis Eradication Scheme for sheep, similar to the successful cattle campaign.

Ovine Johnes Disease

06 Oct EC That the Association:

- a) support the principle of realignment and simplification of Prevalence Areas with the aim of reflecting changing prevalence and to reduce national surveillance costs;
- b) request that DPI in conjunction with RLPBs, assess OJD prevalence to review feasibility of one Medium/High Prevalence Area and one Very Low Prevalence Area in NSW; and
- c) support an endemic disease abattoir surveillance system only after provision of cost/benefits.
- d) that the Association seek a blueprint for the investigation of risk factors that influence the onset of commercially significant clinical OJD.

03 Apr EC

reaffirmed AC 03 That the Association seek the adoption of a new direction for the management of OJD within NSW with the core management elements being:

- (a) the implementation and widespread promotion of a simple risk assessment scale for OJD,
- (b) sheep trading being based on declarations provided by vendors, allowing purchasers to assess risk, thus facilitating the market based trading of sheep,
- (c) the opportunity for perceived OJD free regions to form "OJD Exclusion Areas" with autonomous trading restrictions, provided that the participants of any exclusion zone meet the full cost of their operation and maintenance,
- (d) that NSW producers have unrestricted access to Gudair vaccine and any future improved vaccines,
- (e) that OJD continue to be listed as a notifiable disease but that there be no requirement for regulatory action to follow any notification,
- (f) appropriate discussions are held with other states to minimise any disruption of interstate trade

AC 03 That the Association make representation to the relevant authorities to have the 12 month phase-in period allowing all sheep to trade freely within the OJD Management Area extended from 31 December 2003 to 31 December 2005.

AC 04 That the Association seek the continuation of and funding for OJD abattoir surveillance to enable risk based trading to operate effectively and for results from such surveillance, both positive and negative, to be forwarded to the farm of origin.

04 Oct EC That the Association support the retention of the existing OJD Industry Advisory Committee as the sole industry entity to negotiate and finalise with government:

- (a) The fact that previous arrears of unpaid OJD levies are debts owed to government by private individuals and entities and do not constitute part of any legitimate industry debt;
- (b) That legitimate industry debt does not include any applications for financial assistance approved and disbursed following the IAC's advice to government that the approval of such applications be suspended;
- (c) Given point one and two above Government and industry need to agree what the value of legitimate industry debt is;

and that the Association recommend that the primary task of any new OJD Industry Advisory Committee be to provide advice on future OJD policy.

05 May EC That the Association seek a clear separation between funding needs for OJD:

- (a) any debt repayment to Government in relation to the previous regulatory program
- (b) any new industry services to be provided to current producers.

That the Association seek a full examination of fund-raising options available to industry in order to minimise the costs of collecting and distributing these funds.

AC 05 That any use of additional fund raising mechanism for the OJD scheme be restricted to providing current services to industry (as opposed to providing funds to government to allow it to settle liabilities deriving from any previous program) and that the use of any such mechanism be used only where cost effectiveness makes it the

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preferred choice of industry.

AC 02 That the Association investigate all avenues to reduce the cost of Gudair vaccine.

AC 06 That the Association continue to support abattoir surveillance for the control of OJD in NSW.

05 May EC That the Association:

- (a) urge the government to immediately settle its contractual obligations to producers who are owed money from the government's previous OJD Producer Grants Assistance Scheme;
- (b) actively lobby the NSW Government to accept responsibility for liabilities which it incurred under the previous OJD programme, namely, \$1.8million which the previous two rounds of levy collection failed to yield and \$384,000 which the government approved after the Industry Advisory Committee recommended the cessation of approvals;
- (c) that the Association call for a complete audit of all relevant aspects of revenues and expenditures relating to the previous regulatory program for OJD in order to define the extent of any net liability owed to Government by NSW industry.

AC 07 That the Association support the simplification of Animal Health Statements with regard to the ABC point scoring for OJD.

08 Mar EC That the Association approach MLA and AWI to seek such investigation of the 'host animal/OJD bacteria interaction' as may identify the triggers/risk factors that, through their presence, facilitate the onset of commercially significant clinical OJD in certain areas and which may inhibit the onset of commercially significant clinical OJD in areas.

08 Mar EC

1. That the OJD industry advisory committee be kept in place and that it meet two times per year.
2. That the transaction contribution scheme (TCS) remain suspended and that the remaining funds be held in a designated trust account until an appropriate use for them can be found.
3. That NSW, through the IAC, retain a position where it can provide state based input into any national OJD plan.

00 Feb GC That the Association support that, additional to established sheep traders in 'Residual' zones receiving a 100% subsidy for MAP or equivalent testing, the same apply for studs both 'Control' and Residual' zones and other established traders in the 'Control' zone.

06 Mar EC That the Association support the establishment of an agreed new 2 year National OJD program which includes the following elements:

- (a) Research to be primarily focused on an improved vaccine;
- (b) Cheaper surveillance methods to be examined and surveillance activities to continue dependent upon equitable funding by Government;
- (c) Risk based trading to underpin sheep movement with the elements of science based ABC scores; voluntary health statements; and prevalence areas, within flock testing and vaccination;
- (d) A basic communication program;
- (e) The scheduling and completion of agreed research and development.

05 Oct EC That the Association's support for the OJD Transaction Based Contribution Scheme (the 'Scheme') is contingent upon:

- (a). Funds raised through the Scheme are primarily used to repay producers who are owed money under the OJD producer grants program;
- (b) The NSW Government providing an upfront payment to producers who are owed money under the OJD producer grants program. This payment would represent 30% of the current outstanding amount;
- (c) Collection of the levy from 1 October 2005;
- (d) The NSW Government undertaking all steps necessary to recover outstanding levy payments;
- (e) The Minister providing an assurance that the levies raised under the Scheme will not be used to repay any outstanding monies owed by the NSW Government; and
- (f) Once all producers have been repaid their outstanding monies, the Association's support for the Scheme will be reconsidered.

AC 99 That the Association:

- (a) encourage and support participation in the Market Assurance Program (MAP) by stud and commercial producers of re-stocker sheep as an essential element of surveillance and as a means of minimising the risk to introducing OJD into unaffected flocks; and
- (b) urge growers to purchase stud and commercial animals from sources with lower risk status, especially those with MAP accreditation.

02 Feb EC The Association support the use of Exceptional Circumstances (or equivalent) support for affected studs following a positive diagnosis of OJD.

AC 05 That in calculating any industry obligation deriving from the previous NSW OJD regulatory program the Association employs every available means to impress on government that arrears of levies not paid under the previous "Voluntary/Compulsory Levy" are sums owed to government by the individual entities in question and not

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part of any obligation owed by present industry participants to government.” (This is a reiteration of existing policy.)

AC 01 That the Association call for the complete abandonment of the National OJD Control and Evaluation Program by 30 June 2002 unless by that time:

- (a) OJD vaccine is widely available and accessible to all owners of OJD affected sheep and their neighbours, and
- (b) Appropriate financial assistance as set out in the Hassall report, as adopted in Association policy October 2000 ML10.3 is available for affected producers.

AC 06 That the Association request the NSW Rural Assistance Authority to promptly acknowledge receipt of OJD levy claim forms.

02 May EC That the Association request Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Goat Industry Council of Australia, and WoolProducers to pursue rebates of state-based OJD levies to inter-state producers selling sheep and goats across the border.

00 Feb GC That the Association support a more transparent, user-friendly and equitable system for collecting future State Sheep Industry contributions to national and state OJD programs.

AC 05 That the Association support the development of a diagnostic test for OJD that is sufficiently sensitive as to distinguish between an insignificant level of bacteria within the animal and an invasive level that is likely to result in the onset of clinical disease

03 Apr EC That the Association deplores the lack of action by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) on research into the effect of soil chemistry and nutrition on the expression of OJD and calls on MLA in conjunction with Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) to address this lack of research immediately.

AC 03 That the Association lobby the State and Federal Ministers for Agriculture and Meat and Livestock Australia to provide research funding for OJD on:

- (a) the possibility that organic farming practices may provide a solution to OJD and other infectious animal diseases;
- (b) soil microbiology, acidity and nutrient imbalances and deficiencies, as to how they may affect OJD status.
- (c) The use of bacteriophage in combating OJD

03 Feb EC That the Association as a matter of urgency seek up to date information from MLA and the Program Advisory Committee of the National Program regarding the possible use of bacteriophages as a means of combating and possibly eradicating OJD and other pest species. Further that the Association pressure industry bodies, such as MLA and AWI, and State and Federal Governments to provide funding for research into the use of bacteriophage

AC 04 That the Association support more attention being directed to researching the causes of OJD.

00 Feb GC That the Association support in principle funding for a Stud Breeders' Recovery Package that aims to protect genetic resources and provides a trial pathway for studs infected with OJD to re-establish a viable seed-stock business.

Sheep Chlamydia

AC 08: That the Association request the Department of Primary Industries to investigate the incidence of sheep chlamydia and the possibility of a vaccine being introduced to Australia

Food Safety

SafeFood

AC 99 That the Association seek that the NSW Minister for Agriculture, to amend the Food Production (Safety) Act to permit the Meat Industry Division of SafeFood to continue to administer State ovine brands for a period of 5 years from 1 July 2000.

Livestock Marketing

Export

AC 06 That the Association:

- a) strongly support increased access (greater tonnage) of Australian lamb into the European Union market;
- b) in consultation with AUS-MEAT develop a definition of Australian Export Quality Lamb which will raise our competitive position relative to our main competitors

Footrot

AC 07 That the Association lobby to have the regulation that allows quarantined foot rot affected flocks to move from one RLPB to another RLPB, be amended to prevent such movement

Grading and Description

AC 93 That the Association seek the retention of 04 Apr EC "lamb" description only being used on the domestic market on lambs up to the eruption of any permanent incisors.

AC 00 That the Association support a sheepmeat eating quality grading system based on sheep eating quality research that includes:

- (a) ossification as the primary grading characteristic;
- (b) meat colour, texture and fat cover used to support ossification but not to guarantee quality; and
- (c) preparation and cooking instructions to be included on retail labels.

AC 93 That the Association supports the implementation of "yearling lamb" to replace the current "hogget" category up to the eruption of a third permanent tooth.

AC 93 That the Association seek that all sheepmeat coming into Australia should be branded with a brand from the country of origin.

98 Oct GC That the Association support the development of a grain-fed lamb and hogget accreditation scheme and for this system to be underpinned by AUSMEAT.

AC 03 That the Association:

- (a) Oppose any replacement of the current legislated NSW lamb branding scheme with an optional scheme or a voluntary code of practice;
- (b) If the current NSW lamb branding scheme is to be amended, the Association support legislation in which:
 - all NSW abattoirs supplying lamb to the NSW market be AUS-MEAT accredited, and
 - all lamb product destined for the NSW market be clearly identified using the widely recognised "strip roller-brand";
- (c) Lobby for national roll-out of legislation as described in (b) above.

02 Oct EC That NSW Farmers' Association supports the extension of NSW state lamb brand legislation until such time that all state governments agree to remove legislation in unison and a national, industry based lamb branding scheme is implemented.

AC 02 That the Association lobby state governments and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia to introduce a nationwide lamb brand scheme accredited by AUSMEAT with federal legislation being sought in July 2004 if necessary.

Live Exports

04 Feb EC That the Association support the continuation of the livestock export trade, and in particular:

- a) support the 8 recommendations of the Keniry review except for recommendation 6 on the seasonal closure of ports such as Portland and Adelaide which should be amended such that export is based on individual shipment risk assessments;
- b) express concern with the lack of government consultation with industry during the Cormo Express incident and insist that appropriate consultation occur in any future incidents.

AC 94 That the Association seeks that, in relation to livestock exports:

- (a) Exporters should be urged to change their buying policy such that live sheep to be exported are purchased ex-farm.
- (b) Facilities should be established at Port Kembla for the export of live sheep.
- (c) The MLA whilst fostering the premium trade in live lambs and hoggets should make concerted efforts to maintain a very large trade in merino wethers.
- (d) Traders in live sheep should be encouraged to pay an appropriate premium to producers who are willing to put a greater effort into the standard of product and possibly the pre-conditioning of sheep.
- (e) There should be further research into all forms of stress alleviation and management of live sheep for export.
- (f) The live sheep trade should not be phased out on welfare grounds.
- (g) All agencies involved in the live sheep trade should improve efforts to collect and collate statistics from commercial live sheep operators and publish data regularly for the benefit of the industry.
- (h) The various Codes of Practice adopted for the transport, handling and sheltering of sheep destined for export from Australia is supported.
- (i) The MLA should investigate the total structure of marketing live sheep mutton and lamb export trade to prevent the continuation of exporters undercutting each other to the detriment of producers.
- (j) The Association oppose the export of live sheep from Darwin and Wyndham to prevent the possible contraction of Bluetongue virus by these sheep.

03 Oct EC That the Association seek that the Cattle Council of Australia and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia, due to the importance of continuing the live export of sheep and cattle from Australia, urgently demand:

- (a) AQIS take interim control of the standard administration for live exports, in the event of the regulators threatening to ban live exports.
- (b) That the Standards Body as outlined (in version 21 August 2003) be adopted as the new body for live export standard administration and compliance, subject to agreement on representation numbers and agreement on funding.
- (c) Peak Councils and MLA urgently determine an improved communication approach to ensure people understand

Live Exports

the issue more fully.

Livestock Identification

04 Oct EC That the Association reject compulsory NLIS implementation for the sheep industry, without full industry consultation and agreement, and specifically:

- (a) reject multiple tagging of animals;
- (b) insist on communication between the NLIS and the LPA databases;
- (c) RFID devices be recognised as part of the NLIS sheep system;
- (d) support the exemption for sheep sold direct to slaughter.

EC Oct 08: That the Association support the NLIS Committees proposed objectives of (sheep and Goat) traceability enhancements by:

A. Development of a mob based movement database.

Accurate recording of all other sales including property to property destination Pic's.

A Campaign regarding accurate completion of NVD's is undertaken

B. That the Association compile a briefing note highlighting some of the following subject matter:

- Developments thus far re: NLIS (Breeder Tags, post Breeder Tags);
- Implications of Transaction Tagging in enhancing the NLIS System.
- Importance of Mob Based movement Database.

08 Mar EC That the Association reinforce its opposition to multiple tagging of sheep, in particular its opposition to pink transaction tags on all sheep sold that are not off the property of birth.

07 Oct EC That the Association support in principle the electronic scanning and recording to a data base of all NVDs for sheep (and goats) once the system has been proven.

AC 07 That the Association continue to oppose the mandatory electronic NLIS tagging of sheep.

AC 07 That the Association continue to support the exemption on tagging of lambs sold direct to slaughter on an "over the hooks" basis.

01 Oct GC That the Association support the introduction of a voluntary national sheep ID system based on flock level, visually readable eartags with inscribed Property Identification Codes, with transactions supported by NVD's

03 Oct EC That the Association request the establishment of a NSW Government Advisory Committee to assess the needs for a mandatory sheep ID System in NSW and advise on implementation strategies.

AC 05 That the Association:

- (a) support the Sheepleats Committee in its efforts to keep the flock identification scheme to be a voluntary program and seek that
- (b) traceability of 95% can be independently proven
- (c) a summary of all relevant data related to NVDs is sent to the purchaser with the bill of sale.

AC 04 That the Association reject any attempt to introduce NLIS for sheep until NLIS for cattle has proven workable and benefits are delivered to producers.

AC 06 That the Association:

- a) totally oppose any move to electronic tagging for NLIS Sheep and Goats;
- b) adopt the NLIS logo as mandatory on NLIS Sheep and Goat tags as is the national standard; and
- c) support the voluntary use of 'year of birth' colour coding on NLIS Sheep and Goat tags.

06 Mar EC That the Association:

1. Support the proposed standards for sheep electronic identification being consistent with current National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Sheep plastic tag standards (ie visually readable property identification code, and retention).
2. Require a cost / benefit analysis to be undertaken prior to electronic identification becoming mandatory under NLIS Sheep.
3. Will require the following electronic identification standards, if electronic identification becomes a mandatory NLIS Sheep requirement:
 - (a) Capable of interfacing with multiple reader technologies;
 - (b) Effective at commercial speeds at each point in the supply chain (i.e. on farm, saleyards, processing works and live exports); and
 - (c) Prices starting at less than \$0.50 per device.

05 May EC That the Association advise the NSW Minister that:

- (a) the Association is not yet persuaded that 1 January 2006 is a realistic mandatory introduction date for NLIS Sheep;
- (b) the Association is not yet persuaded that the proposed NLIS Sheep scheme is of benefit to the sheep industry

Livestock Identification

in NSW;

(c) that there has been a failure of the drivers of the scheme (government and processors) to articulate and convince sheep producers that a mandatory scheme is necessary at this time;

(d) the Association looks forward to the Government's education program being rolled out to producers to convince them that the proposed scheme is to their benefit;

(e) the Association supports a market driven approach to NLIS introduction.

05 Oct EC That the Association:

(a) Advise the NSW Government of the need for the immediate commencement of an adequate education campaign which promotes awareness amongst producers of the National Identification Scheme for sheep;

(b) Lobby the NSW Government to provide funds to help growers with the costs of implementing NLIS for sheep; and

(c) Make known to our members via the media that whilst we have a policy opposing mandatory NLIS sheep we accept that mandatory NLIS sheep will be introduced and believe it should be done with a clause that accepts exemptions from the tagging provisions for stock sold direct to abattoirs as is being done in other states in various forms.

National Sheep Health Statement

07 Oct EC That the Association support:

a) the mandatory use of all sections of the National Sheep Health Statement;

b) that wherever possible details specific to the property of origin are pre printed on that statement;

c) that it be mandatory to retain copies of completed Sheep Health Statements for a minimum of 2 years.

Quality Assurance

00 Feb GC That the Association support an improved awareness campaign to promote Flockcare and other on-farm QA systems with an emphasis on the integration between the various modules available.

Saleyard Marketing

AC 04 That the Association seek in relation to sheep that all information on the animal health statement be displayed at store and breeder sales.

Meat and Livestock Australia

Functions

AC 95 That the Association seek that the MLA promote young mutton as an attractive low fat consumer product.

AC 95 That the Association seek that the MLA continually seek new markets for Australian mutton.

AC 95 That the Association seek that the MLA, through NSW Agriculture extension service, assist producers to market direct through processors who use the Lamb Identification and Description Scheme (LIDS) and provide feedback sheets.

Industry Levies

AC 03 That the Association support that there be no change in the lamb levy and that MLA increase activities to further maximise industry benefits

AC 98 That the Association support the implementation of a capped ad-velorum transaction levy of 2%, with a cap on levy payments of \$0.20 per transaction for sheep and \$1.50 per transaction for lambs to fund sheep industry contributions to Meat and Livestock Australia.

97 Oct GC That the Association support a transaction levy on all sheep sales to fund sheepmeat industry research and promotion activities, with a separate rate for sheep and lambs, an exemption for low value stock, and a concession for store lambs such that the rate for store lambs is the same as the mutton levy

Industry Levy

AC 08: That the Association seek a review of the current sheep and lamb levy arrangements

Marketing and Promotion

01 Feb GC That the Association support the urgent appointment by MLA of two Market Development Officers with widespread commercial experience of all aspects of sheepmeat industry processing and marketing.

Sheep - General

00 Oct GC That the Association support the establishment of a national cross-sectoral planning group to advance strategic planning for the lamb and sheepmeat industry.

Peak Industry Body

National Sheep Industry Animal Health Advisory Group

01 May GC That the Association support the formation of a National Sheep Industry Animal Health Advisory Group between WoolProducers and SCA, and request the Group to report on an equitable funding mechanism for national animal health programs.

Sheepmeats Council of Australia

99 Feb GC That the Association seek that the Memorandum of Understanding between Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) and WoolProducers (WP) requires SCA to:

- (a) communicate with WP on levy funded expenditure directed towards sheepmeat promotion;
- (b) consult with WP on levy funded expenditure directed towards sheepmeat research and development; and
- (c) obtain concurrence of WP on levy funded expenditure directed towards animal health issues.