

# Media Release



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## Sheepmeat producers reminded to 'PIC' the entire mob

The NSW Farmers' Association is reminding sheepmeat producers to ensure they are filling out National Vendor Declarations (NVD) correctly, with 40 per cent of NVDs currently being rendered invalid due to inaccuracies.

NSW Farmers' Association Sheepmeats Committee Chair Ian McColl says NVDs are a vital link in the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), and Members have an important part to play in helping to protect the traceability of Australia's \$3 billion sheepmeat industry.

"In 2007, less than 60 per cent of NVDs were correctly or completely filled out, indicating a need for improvement.

"NVDs have been a compulsory part of the sheepmeat industry since 2006 and most producers are now very familiar with them, however inaccuracies continue to occur.

"An incorrect or missing Property Identification Code (PIC) can render the form invalid, so it is very important that these details are correct," said Mr McColl.

According to Mr McColl, the inclusion of the correct PIC for all sheep in a consignment is one of the most important considerations in completing an NVD.

"Many mobs contain sheep that have been bought from various properties and locations, and the different PIC numbers for all of these sheep must be recorded on the NVD.

"Alternatively, if producers prefer, they can re-tag all the sheep in the mob with a pink post-breeder tag. Either of these methods will ensure traceability for the mob in the case of a disease incursion, which is essential," Mr McColl said.

Under NLIS (Sheep & Goats) producers, transporters, stock and station agents, buyers and processors are required to fill out an NVD whenever they move stock to a saleyard, abattoir or another property.

"There is agreement across the industry that the NVD program contributes to international trade and biosecurity.

"Incorrect NVDs not only impact the effectiveness of NLIS in maintaining access to export markets, but also limit the success of the system in containing potential major disease outbreaks," Mr McColl said.

The NSW Farmers' Association Sheepmeats Committee continues to work with the sheepmeat industry to develop a robust and cost effective traceability system.

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