

Wool

International Trade

Genetic Exports

AC 94 That the Association seek that the export of merino genetic material should be banned with an exemption for the export of merino ewes guaranteed direct for slaughter to Indonesia provided that:

- (a) the trade be continuously monitored to check all sheep exported are unloaded in Indonesia; and
- (b) any breach of the above will lead to the immediate termination of the exporter's license.

Import Tariffs

93 Oct GC That the Association strongly support the Australian Government's efforts to have tariffs on imports of wool into China, and other consuming countries, reduced or removed.

Peak Industry Body

WoolProducers Australia

97 May GC That the Association seek that WoolProducers adopt a consensus driven approach to policy development with the objective of maximising agreement on policies wherever possible.

97 May GC That the Association seek that the role of WoolProducers sub-committees be expanded in the development and implementation of policy, and that such sub-committees involve State Wool Executive Officers.

Sheep Health and Welfare

Diazinon

AC 01 That the Association support the need for, and responsible use of, diazinon for sheep blowfly control, and request manufacturers and AWI to provide the necessary research data to the APVMA to support its continued use.

Footrot

01 May GC That the Association support an amendment by the NSW State Footrot Steering Committee to its policy for flocks which test stable using the Gelatin Gel test but act benign in the field, to allow for:

- (a) formulation and implementation of appropriate management strategies rather than eradication; and
- (b) facilitation of trading between flocks.

AC 95 That the Association seek that the members of a Footrot Control Area have the right to veto the entry of travelling sheep that originate from outside the Footrot Control Area.

01 May GC That the Association support the continuation of research using DNA technology for the differential diagnosis of virulent and benign footrot

Lice

94 Feb GC That the Association support NSW Agriculture's current sheep lice policy on the basis that the lice control guidelines set by the NSW Sheep Ectoparasite Steering Committee are adopted as part of the policy.

AC 06 That the Association support regulations regarding the continuation of inspection for lice on sheep in saleyards.

Mulesing

08 Mar EC That the Association write to the Sheep and Wool Industry Taskforce suggesting the immediate cessation of surgical mulesing may provide a way forward.

08 Mar EC That, further to Executive Council's previous resolution, the Association write to the Sheep and Wool Industry Taskforce demanding that necessary funds immediately be made available to ensure that:

- a) as a matter of extreme urgency, merino producers and other industry participants are briefed fully, on the developments regarding market policy of the 60 companies' positions on the purchase of Australian wool and of any other information with inherent market implications;
- b) action is taken to ensure there is an adequate supply of clips and other technical aids to substantially increase protection from breech strike;
- c) action is taken to increase research and development of cost effective new technologies to reduce incidence of, and increase protection from breech strike; and
- d) there is a positive promotion of Australia's sheep husbandry practices.

AC 08: That in the interests of ensuring affordable pain relief in areas that are of concern to our customers, the Association lobby to ensure that all the relevant analgesics are made available to producers with a minimum of regulatory or other restrictions.

Sheep Handling

AC 89 That the Association seek amendment of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to allow the use in NSW of the electronic immobilising device known as the "Stockstill" which is an integral part of robotic shearing of sheep.

Sheep Industry Trust Fund

07 Oct EC That the Association support the establishment of a sheep industry trust fund for unused wool and sheepmeat Animal Health Australia levies to secure industry funds to be used for sheep industry related animal health and disease liability.

State Taxes

Pay Roll Tax on Shearing Contractors

AC 05 That the Association lobby the State Government to abolish payroll tax on shearing contractors.

Training and Education

Mulesing Accreditation

AC 05 That the Association seek an investigation of the practicality of Rural Lands Protection Boards being authorised to conduct mulesing training and accreditation.

05 May EC That the Association support:

- (a) the concept of voluntary mulesing training for all owner operators who conduct mulesing operations; and
- (b) the mandatory accreditation of commercial mulesing contractors by the 31 December 2006 deadline detailed in the Draft Code.

Shearer Training

AC 02 That the Association show continued support of all shearing industry training bodies with a view to aiding the shearers shortage crisis.

Shearer/Shed Hand Training

AC 01 That the Association support the continuation of timely funding of in-shed shearer/shedhand schools in regional areas to ensure the availability of professional industry personnel throughout the year

Wool Industry - General

Adoption of Innovation

AC 99 That the Association seek that all sectors within the wool industry to adopt innovative changes to ensure a vibrant commercially responsive industry, in particular to:

- (a) retain a collectively funded R&D organisation that will focus on technical support, farm productivity and processing and product innovation;
- (b) establish third party accredited QA schemes from farm through to fabric which offer appropriate guarantees on product performance;
- (c) recognise that end consumer promotion be best driven and funded by garment manufacturers and retailers;
- (d) establish a comprehensive market intelligence service to provide information on stock and consumption trends throughout the pipeline;
- (e) facilitate the formation of marketing alliances that encourage a more efficient wool delivery system.

Central Wool Inventory

AC 06 That the Association seek the co-operation of relevant industry bodies to seek the collation of wool test results with a view to the creation of a central wool inventory for the purpose of:

- a) creating an "Australian QA Gold Standard Level 1" category for the listing of wools being offered to the market with the maximum available levels of measured quality assurance, and creating further categories under the "Australian QA Gold Standard" that are graduated to list and group wools that are supported by lesser standards of measured quality assurance; and
- b) the grouping together within the proposed Central Wool Inventory of wools with similar fibre characteristics and processing potential.

Government Intervention

AC 91 The Association demands that there be no Government intervention in the medium to long term in the wool industry.

PETA Court Case

AC 05 That the Association endorse and support Australian Wool Innovation's actions against People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Sale by Description

AC 91 That the Association support the establishment of sale by description, electronic sale and direct marketing between growers and processors.

Wool Forecasting

01 May GC That the Association support the use of wool-grower levies to fund the Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industry Survey (AAGIS) for wool production forecasting, but oppose the use of additional woolgrower funds through AWEX for such forecasting.

AC 06 That the Association investigate ABARE's method for forecasting the price of wool.

Wool Industry Strategic Plan

05 Feb EC That the Association ask AWI (through Wool Producers) to fund development of a "whole of industry Strategic Plan" for the wool industry.

Wool Marketing

AC 06 That the Association urge AWI and AWS investigate the needs of wool processors and manufacturers with regard to maximising confidence in the wool industry from a marketing viewpoint, such findings to be reported to members.

Wool Quotas

AC 93 That the Association not support any artificial means of reducing wool production, such as wool quotas.

Wool Residue Testing

AC 06 That in the light of the new environmental standards to apply in Europe from late 2007 the Association review and, if appropriate, seek wider adoption of the concept of verifying wool residue levels as developed between Roberts wool brokers (Tas) and CSIRO.

Wool Trading Contracts

AC 05 That the Association request that Australian Wool Services, WoolProducers and the Federal Department of Trade, in consultation with other state farm organisations, examine the feasibility of instituting a scheme for the negotiation of annual contracts for price and quantity for the sale of Australian wool, in its various grades, to China and other major buyers of Australian wool, similar to those in place for coal, iron ore and gas

Wool Production

Quality Assurance

00 Oct GC That the Association support the development of successful supply chain alliances to assist in the marketing of Australian wool.

00 Oct GC That the Association support the establishment of a suitable institution with the capacity to benchmark the quality of wool tops in the marketplace.

96 Oct GC That the Association seek a uniform, industry-based quality assurance code of practice for wool including woolgrowers, wool buyers and wool processors.

Wool Contamination

AC 07 That the Association investigate where the liability lies for failing to effectively segregate shedding sheep from neighbouring traditional white wool sheep on farms, in saleyards and during livestock transport.

AC 03 That the Association support a voluntary declaration, by owner/managers, for dark and medullated fibre risk and other wool traits that affect the processing performance of the wool with such a declaration being carried through to the sale catalogue and the test certificate.

AC 95 That the Association encourage the further development of wool packs and other agricultural wrappings manufactured from wool.

AC 01 That the Association seek that the declaration on pigmented or medullated fibre risk within the Woolclasser Specification become mandatory.

AC 07 That the Association seek that it be mandatory for Merino wool producers to sign the "Declaration for Determination of Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk" in the Classers Specification Form and in doing so declare contact with exotic breeds as either yes, no or don't know.

94 Oct GC That the Association seek that the haymaking industry urgently address the problem of wool contamination caused by polypropylene string used in haymaking and especially contamination caused by the short ends cut off by hay bale knotters.

Wool Residue Levy

00 May GC That the Association support funding of a wool residue critical incident in which:

- (a) initial funding is sourced from the National Residue Survey Levy facilitated by the Memorandum of Understanding with Sheepmeat Council of Australia;
- (b) next draws on the \$100,000 guarantee held by AWS; and
- (c) for further funds, utilise a sleeping zero-rated national wool levy to be activated only in the event of major wool residue critical incident.

Wool Research, Development and Promotion

AWI Board

08 Mar EC That the Association support a skills based board for Australian Wool Innovation and work with Wool Producers and AWI to implement a selection process

AWI Constitution

Apr GC 00 That the Association support the constitution for AWI so that it:

- (a) contains a process where levy payers affirm the selection of the board members;
- (b) does not constrain its commercial flexibility;
- (c) ensures that the role of the Government is limited to a statutory requirement relating to levy funds collection and disbursement;
- (d) includes strict accountability to levy payers which identifies the benefits of Company investments; and
- (e) is available in draft form prior to incorporation to enable comment by interest groups on the proposed powers of the Company.

Environmental Benefits of Wool

AC 07 That AWI push the environmental benefits of wool over oil and coal as a means of keeping warm and the environmental benefits of wool over cotton and synthetics in clothing be kept at the forefront of the environmental debate.

Sheep CRC

AC 01 That the Association support the establishment of the proposed Sheep and Wool Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) provided:

- (a) there is no duplication of existing R&D initiatives; and
- (b) measurable outcomes are provided by the Board.

The Woolmark Company

AC 01 That the Association urge The Woolmark Company to encourage Woolmark licensees to clearly identify Australian wool in the market place.

AC 98 That the Association request TWC to develop more accurate benchmarks and measures of the impact of The Woolmark Company wool promotion and marketing programs on consumption of apparel wool in key markets

AC 98 That the Association request that TWC clearly outline to woolgrowers their strategies to reverse the trends of falling wool consumption and market share in key apparel markets.

Verified Australian Merino

AC 07 That the Association support the progressive development of the Verified Australian Merino (VAM) marketing initiative to the point where it is capable of providing later stage processors with all the measured specifications of the separate components of Australian greasy wool included in the products received by these processors.

Wool Levy

03 Feb EC That the Association seek that Australian Wool Innovation Limited provide full disclosure on the funds required to support its Strategic Plan 2002-2007 and the impact of alternative levy funding levels in the context of WoolPoll 2003

02 Feb EC The Association support the development of a specific Wool Levy component to provide funds to combat and compensate producers for emergency and other diseases affecting the woolgrowing industry subject to the establishment of an equitable fund raising mechanism being established for the sheepmeat industry. This fund to be under the control of Animal Health Australia with upper and lower limits of the levy to be set by industry at a later date.

AC 00 That the Association seek to ensure that with the establishment of the new entity arising from the wool industry reform process, wool levy be applied equally to all initially harvested wool including fellmongered wool

97 May GC That the Association support woolgrower voting entitlements for industry ballots be allocated on the basis of voluntary registration for the ballot by woolgrowers, with the number of votes per woolgrower based on

Wool Levy

verification provided by woolgrowers of the value of wool sold during the relevant period.

03 Oct EC That the Association support a 2% levy rate in WoolPoll2003 as it offers the most appropriate level of funding to achieve research, development and innovation for the wool industry for the following reasons:

- (a) That the 2% levy is the lowest cost option that will achieve the current strategic plan for AWI given the current volatility in the wool market and the long term uncertainty over the level of wool production.
- (b) That given the increasing calls for promotion that the 2% levy is the lowest cost levy that will enable a limited amount of industrial marketing to take place for the benefit of the industry.
- (c) That it creates a high degree of certainty amongst wool researchers and industry bodies over the long term security of funding for wool related R&D.
- (d) It allows AWI to carry out a number of industry services that would otherwise not be provided for under lower level options.

Wool Marketing Plan

AC 05 That the Association lobby Australian Wool Innovation and The Woolmark Company to develop a comprehensive wool product marketing plan.

Wool Promotion

AC 96 That the Association seek the implementation of a mechanism whereby vertically integrated organisations in the wool industry can contribute to a Promotion and Research Levy

AC 94 That the Association, through the NFF and Government:

- (a) strongly support the promotion of natural fibres, such as wool, cotton and others;
- (b) support the use of wool in a wider variety of products through an effective promotion campaign promoting wool as the most natural affordable fibre the world has to offer.

AC 05 That the Association request that The Woolmark Company and Australian Wool Innovation target prominent manufacturers to market easy-care wool-rich blends with other natural fibres and synthetics.

AC 00 That the Association support a joint venture of the wool, cotton, and other natural fibre organisations to promote natural fibres as environmentally sustainable fabrics.

AC 04 That the Association take a lead in facilitating the debate regarding wool promotion.

Wool Research and Development

AC 04 That the Association seek AWI and the Federal Government enter into a joint research and development venture so as to develop wool uniforms for the defence force which utilises new innovations and developments in wool textiles as well as wool's natural fire retardant quality.

AC 01 That the Association support an investigation by AWI of the feasibility of providing a temporary, biodegradable spray-on coating for sheep, to protect them from the elements following shearing.

AC 04 That the Association seeks that Australian Wool Innovation conduct research and development of branding fluids and dry brands that are fully scourable and meet the needs of both producers and processors

AC 00 That the Association support increased research being conducted on wool consumption to produce fabric suitable for everyday wear, rather than fabric for the high fashion market.

Wool Research, Development and Promotion

AC 05 That the Association support the formation of a single entity to be responsible for both research and development and the marketing of wool and that it support:

- (a) any legislative amendments required to facilitate this outcome;
- (b) that if within three months AWI and TWC have not agreed on a process to create this single entity the Association support the liquidation of TWC; and
- (c) that the allocation of funding between research and development and product marketing be determined at the discretion of the new entity and not be subject to direction through legislation.

Wool Sales

AWEX

01 Feb GC That the Association support the implementation of a feedback mechanism overseen by AWEX whereby woolbrokers would be required to notify woolclassers and owners of any breach in the Code of Practice

AC 95 That the Association endorse the proposed AWEX industry description, subject to further refinement for superfine wools, and support its inclusion in the sale catalogue at the discretion of the vendor.

AC 01 That the Association request AWEX to:

- (a) undertake a review of the current Woolclasser Development Program to ascertain whether it has met the

AWEX

outcomes originally set down; and

(b) make future training for all wool classers dependent on documented breaches of the code of practice.

(c) ensure that all woolclassing courses are updated to cover material in the Development Program (or future programs).

94 Apr GC That the Association seek that the Australian Wool Exchange consult fully with woolgrower representative bodies in revising the wool auction selling regulations.

Security of Growers' Funds

AC 92 That the Association support the establishment of a compulsory trust fund for the proceeds of wool sales

Wool Sale Rosters

AC 94 That the Association support the extension of the wool selling season to all times of the year.

Wool Selling Centres

AC 95 That unless there are demonstrable benefits to woolgrowers in the rationalising of wool selling centres, the Association strongly oppose any changes to the present situation in NSW.

05 Oct EC That the Association support market forces determining the number and location of wool selling centres in Australia

06 Mar EC That the Association supports a trading system for greasy wool which:

(a) centralises the information required for a change in ownership;

(b) makes the product available to the domestic and international market; and

(c) facilitates efficient delivery and minimal supply chain costs to all parties.

Wool Selling Costs

AC 92 That the Association oppose the centralisation fee and adhere to the 1988 requirement whereby woolgrowers bear no further responsibilities after the fall of the hammer.

AC 02 That the Association seek transparency of all wool selling charges and request brokers to publish both the pre-sale and post-sale charges levied by brokers on wool producers and wool buyers.

Wool Selling Regulations

AC 04 That the Association supports AWH's plan for separate wool sales as long as it contributes to the regulatory and market report functions currently undertaken by AWEX.

97 Oct GC That the Association support the regional warehousing and testing of wool.

AC 91 That the Association requests that wool sold at auction and re-offered at a later sale must carry the new owner's brand and form of identification in the sale catalogue.

04 Apr EC That the Association affirm its in principle support for the availability of effective competition within the wool trading and handling arena and also seek the highest possible standards of transparency and integrity in the supply of market intelligence.

03 Feb EC That the Association rigorously defend the current "prompt date" for the payment to woolgrowers who sell through the auction system and oppose any changes.

Wool Selling Systems

AC 00 That the Association support electronic selling systems that reflect advances in e-commerce and not replication of the current auction system.

99 Oct GC That the Association seek the abolition of the 10 Lot Rule in the open-cry wool auction system and review the applicability of the Rule to the electronic sales system after a trial period of twelve months.

Wool testing

AC 08: That the Association investigate the financial situation and the financial reporting of the AWTA

AC 01 That the Association support AWTA running down its reserves to assist the processing industry in developing countries to:

(a) maximise processing efficiency;

(b) develop and enhance improved standards of Quality Control, and

(c) understand and commercially exploit advances in objective measurement such as laser scan technology.

00 Oct GC That the Association support Laserscan as the definitive method for the measurement of fibre diameter and request that where more than one certified diameter result for a lot is available the Australian Wool Exchange only provide the Laserscan result in the catalogue.

Wool testing

facilitate more efficient handling and direct marketing of wool to consumers.