

## Contact Us

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## Wool and Sheepmeat Update November 2007

### **Australian Wool Innovation AGM**

On 14 November 2007 Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) held their Annual General Meeting in Geelong Victoria. The major outcome from the meeting was the election of three directors; Dr Kevin Bell, Mr Roger Fletcher and Mr Charles Olsson.

The members of the Wool Committee look forward to working with these new directors in the future to ensure a profitable industry for all producers. The Committee is keen to see the new directors strongly support both AWI's product marketing agenda and the equally important agenda for the efficient and ethical production of wool in Australia. The Committee will continue to monitor all aspects of AWI's activities to ensure producer's levy funds are used in a way that is benefiting Australian wool producers

### **WoolProducers Australia AGM**

On Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 November 2007 WoolProducers Australia held an Executive meeting as well as Annual General Meeting in Geelong, Victoria. The Association was represented at the meeting by Alix Turner (Wool Committee) as well as the Association's Wool Analyst.

Issues discussed at the meeting included the progress of the Australian Wool Innovation/Australian Wool Services integration, animal welfare standards review, the new national OJD management plan and the ongoing Chinese Wool Import Quota issue.

On Tuesday afternoon WoolProducers Australia held their AGM which saw the election of Mr Don Hamblin (former Wool Committee Chair) as President and Geoff Power (South Australian Farmers Federation) as Senior Vice President and Geoff Fiskin (Victorian Farmers Federation) was elected Vice President /Treasurer.

### **Sheepmeats Council of Australia AGM**

On Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 November 2007 the Sheepmeats Council of Australia (SCA) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and General Council meeting in Rockhampton. This meeting was attended by the Association's Sheepmeats Committee member Rodney Watt and the Association Sheepmeats Analyst.

Major issues discussed at the meeting included the new draft OJD National Management plan, MLA's attempts to increase quota for EU trade, NLIS Sheepcatcher exercise update, LPA Accreditation. The meeting was also provided with an update of the findings and recommendation coming out of the Equine Influenza incursion.

At the AGM Mr Chris Groves was re-elected as President as was Vice President Mrs Kate Joseph (Victorian Farmers Federation) and Treasurer Mr Scott Anderson (Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association).

## Meat and Livestock Australia AGM

Meat & Livestock Australia has three new Board Directors following the successful passing of three related resolutions at the MLA AGM in Rockhampton on Thursday 22 November 2007. In three separate resolutions MLA members voted to elect to the Board, John Wyld, (71% of MLA members voted in favour), Lucinda Corrigan (83% of MLA members voted in favour) and Michael Carroll (92% of MLA members voted in favour). At least 50 percent of votes needed to be in favour in order for each resolution to be passed.

## OJD National Plan and NSW Review of OJD Management

A new draft National Management Plan for OJD will soon be released for public comment. The plan has been developed in conjunction with State Chief Veterinary Officers, SCA and WoolProducers Australia. The Peak industry bodies have now approved the draft and it has been progressed back to the appropriate State Departments for final approval before being released for public comment. The Association has been reviewing the draft throughout the development process and will be making comment once the new draft plan has been released.

The NSW Government has announced that it will undertake a review of OJD management in NSW. The Government believes it will allow them to explore the success of key elements of the old program and will also allow us to identify the lessons to be learnt for ongoing animal disease management programs. The review will be headed by the Hon Richard Bull and will focus on; the effectiveness of the Exclusion Areas, patterns of disease prevalence, disease management issues, the role of Abattoir surveillance and the Transaction-based Contribution Scheme.

## Live Export Numbers Continue to Strengthen

Over the past 12 months the value of Australian live exports has continued to increase; Cattle numbers have risen to 675 732 with a value of A\$500m with stock going to 26 countries, Sheep numbers were steady at 4.2 million with a value of A\$300m which went to 17 countries and goat exports have increased by 72% to 75 000 valued at A\$10m and exported to 12 countries.

With all the recent debate in the media over the future of the live exports industry in Australia and what value they actually provide to Australian producers one must consider the effect on local markets the dumping of 4.2m sheep and 675 000 cattle would have if exports were banned over night.

During 2006, 99.82% of cattle and 99.1% of sheep that were loaded onto livestock export vessels in Australia walked off in importing countries in good health after being well looked after during the voyage.

## Livestock Production Assurance Accreditation

Meat and Livestock Australia has reminded producers that as of 1 March 2008 all producers who wish to sell stock using a LPA National Vendor Declaration will need to be fully accredited. Once producers are fully accredited they do not need to get any new NVD books, they will however become part of the random audit process that underpins the LPA system. Producers can check on their LPA status by login on to [www.mla.com.au/lqs](http://www.mla.com.au/lqs) or by calling 1800 683 111

## Omission from last Livestock Update

Due to an editing mishap last update **Mrs Alison Nicholls** was left off the list of Wool Committee members and **Mrs Michele Simpson** was left off the list of Sheepmeats Committee members. Both members were re-elected to their respective Committees at Annual Conference this year.

*“Together we’re a force to be reckoned with”*