



# Western Sheep & Beef Producers

## Bulletin – 3 October 2013

### **LIVE EXPORT FORUM**

The SMBA wrote to the President in early August seeking to form a delegation from all parties involved in the live export trade, such as sheep industry representative bodies, livestock exporters in Western Australia and the Australian Live Export Council to put together a submission for the overhaul of the ESCAS system.

Considering the closeness of the election, ALEC was cautious that the forum could turn into an unwanted election issue.

However, there was genuine bi-partisanship in Western Australia to seek more information about ESCAS and what could be done to improve the situation. The Chairman is to be commended for his work in persuading SMBA and ALEC to proceed.

As well as the producer and livestock export representative groups, livestock agents, agricultural consultants, WoolProducers Australia, and DAFF also attended.

DAFWA was represented at the Principal Veterinary Officer level, which was somewhat disappointing considering the significance of live export to the livestock production industry in this state.

The forum was a valuable exercise and included sessions on the impacts of ESCAS, what it was, how well it worked and what could be done to it, as well as alternatives.

### **SHEEPMET COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA**

Readers are reminded that Mr David Boyle of York is the PGA representative to the Sheepmeat Council of Australia. Mr Boyle has performed this duty on a "temporary" basis since 1991. He has indicated he would welcome a replacement. Interested parties are asked to contact the Chairman, Mr Digby Stretch on the mobile phone number below.

### **MULESING ACCREDITATION**

The PGA has been asked to provide feed back on developing a draft unit of competency for mulesing procedures. The request was made by a consultant retained by WoolProducers Australia, suggesting that the recent animal welfare standards and guidelines activity was a sufficient trigger to consider an industry standard for mulesing.

Vocational education is a very complicated institution but in his reply, the Chairman pointed out that the discussion paper prepared by the sheep standards & guidelines writing group stated that "formal assessment of ability is not required".

There is already a nationally recognized training course to perform mulesing procedures on sheep and there has been continuity in the provision of this training course since the beginning of 2005. The Chairman also pointed out that there is no value on education creep.

The process has now moved to the industry validation phase.

### **FEDERAL ELECTION**

The Chairman notes the decisive election result and looks forward with optimism to a government with a commanding majority. There is no doubt that the previous hung parliament resulted in weak government.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2013**

PGA Open GM Forum – 7 October

PGA Convention – Saturday, 2 November

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