



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

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CATTLE COUNCIL – BEEF 2015 & BEYOND

The Cattle Council held a workshop in Fremantle on the 21st of May as part of a national series to imagine the future of the beef cattle industry. The president, vice president Ruth Webb-Smith, David & Kathy Lovelock and the EO represented the PGA. Attendance was by invitation only and represented SFOs, government agencies, other producer groups, feedlotter, and northern and southern cattle producers. According to the organizers it was one of the biggest turnouts. Workshop notes on this meeting are available from the EO by request.

SCA REQUEST FOR FMD VACCINATION POLICY

Over the coming months SCA will be involved in numerous discussions on Australia's FMD response plan, including FMD vaccination policy. Consequently they requested the PGA's policy on FMD vaccination to provide them with background information.

As a previous submission had been recently prepared for AHA with the assistance of the Chairman and Mr Lovelock, this was used as the basis of the submission to SCA.

SHEEP INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The EO was finally able to attend his first meeting of this group on the 20th of April. Previous meetings had clashed with the PGA Kimberley Div. and Productivity Commission rural RD&E consultation meetings.

As part of DAFWA's efforts to raise the profile of sheep production in the state, a big effort has been made to reboot this group. The group's executive officer, Justin Hardy is to be commended in this respect.

Checking the agenda and minutes, there are some issues of significance to the PGA, such as stock theft and animal ethics committees. In this respect the meetings are quite useful. However, some of the other agenda items are more appropriately covered in other meetings, like NLIS, Footrot Management Committee and OJD advisory committee, so this aspect is less valuable. Notes on this meeting are available from the EO.

DAFWA BUDGET BRIEFING

The President and EO attended a budget briefing by the Director-General Mr Rob Delane. Most of the subsequent effects of the reductions in the department's budget have been reported in the rural media. Some major points were;

- Livestock activities will be reduced to high priority issues that are supported by the livestock industry.
- DAFWA will move to a supply chain supporter rather than an on-farm service provider.
- Refurbishment of the DAFWA office buildings in South Perth will be put back to 2018. However, DAFWA will keep planning for its on-site improvements and expedite the sale of assets at Forrestfield, head office and Medina.

AWI WOOLPOLL

The Chairman continues to liaise with the PGA's representative to WoolPoll, Mr Wayne Duffield of Darkan.

WALEA

The EO attended the last general meeting of WALEA held on April 12th. At the meetings, there was lively debate over the role of LiveCorp.

With respect to the Farmer Review, individual sheep RFID is due to be discussed at a PIMC working group in mid 2012. This will investigate the feasibility and barriers to implementation of RFID.

In addition government sources suggest that there would be increasing pressure from federal and state governments to move to sheep RFID because of the traceability shortcomings identified in the Matthews report and the potential costs of an FMD outbreak. Notes on this meeting are available from the EO.

ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATION

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for the welfare of animals for export beyond the borders of Australia. It does this through the Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997. The regulations associated with this Act reference the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock. This is the legal basis for the enforcement of welfare standards for the export of animals. The ultimate sanction for a breach is to revoke permissions to export animals under the Export Control Act 1982. Animal welfare within Australia's borders is the responsibility of each state government. In Western Australia, the appropriate Act is the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Meetings

Pastoral	11 July
Executive	12 July
Goldfields Div.	27 July (from 2pm)
PGA Convention	26 September