



Western Sheep & Beef Producers

Bulletin #4 – 19 December 2013

ELECTRONIC ID FOR SHEEP

The Standing Council on Primary Industries (SCoPI) has asked the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) to prepare a consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on improving sheep NLIS. Three options for improving the current NLIS were analysed for the consultation RIS:

- Option 1:** Enhanced mob-based system with improvements in the verification and enforcement of business rules.
- Option 2:** Electronic ID system with exemptions for sheep and goats sold directly from their property of birth to abattoirs or export depots.
- Option 3:** Electronic ID system without exemptions.

SCoPI is the meeting of all agricultural Ministers in the States and Territories and at the Federal level, convened under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) process. Prior to the imposition of any new regulation, government is required to consider its effects through a regulation impact statement process.

The PGA has made a submission to ABARES supporting the current system that uses 'born on property' and 'introduced on property' (transaction) tags with mob based movement (MBM), reported to the NLIS computer database. It is a cost effective, mature and successful system of life time traceability of livestock for exotic disease purposes. To dismantle such a successful system just to introduce electronic tagging will just cause unnecessary and costly regulatory burden that arises from unnecessary standards.

NVDs

The PGA has been asked to raise the importance of making sure correctly filled out NVDs accompany stock movements.

The main issues concern the use of old NVDs that no longer have enough fields to allow producers to correctly enter all the information that is now required, such as the PIC of destination. The PGA can supply industry lists of common destinations. Also, lack of water curfew times and time of departure not filled out may cause saleyards to hold animals over, thereby possibly incurring further costs.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This year has seen campaigns by Animals Australia against inversion slaughter, as practised for religious reasons in both Egypt and Israel, and the leakage of sheep from ESCAS in Jordan and Kuwait over the Festival of the Eid.

The shift from a minority government to one holding a commanding majority has seen a much more muted government response that seems to suggest it is prepared to let the system work through the issues rather than bend to external pressures.

The Chairman hopes this is a sign that the wider Australian community, including governments, recognize the national significance of meeting the opportunity of consumer demand from developing countries which will require live animals to develop their food processing industries.

On behalf of the Livestock Committee the Chairman wishes all members and friends of the PGA a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2014

Executive Committee – 23 January

PGA Executive and AGM – Thursday, 27 February

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