

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation
Locked Bag 3006
DEAKIN WEST, ACT 2600

Tuesday, 23 July 2013

Via email: publicconssheep@animalwelfarestandards.net.au

To whom it may concern

RE: Public Consultation for the Draft Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines - Sheep

I am writing to provide WoolProducers Australia's (WPA) submission into the public consultation into the Draft Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Sheep.

The submission outlines WPA's position on individual Standards and the practical implications these Standards would present to producers on-ground in the event of implementation.

Whilst WPA firmly believes that the vast majority of Australian wool growers practice excellent animal welfare, we remain committed to the on-going improvement of welfare practices across the wool industry and dedicate significant resources to this issue.

Examples of this commitment include integral involvement into the development of international animal welfare guidelines for wool sheepⁱ, research and developmentⁱⁱ and active participation in the Australian Animal Welfare Strategyⁱⁱⁱ.

WPA has been heavily involved in the development process of the Draft Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Sheep, and will continue our involvement in this process on the following provisos:

- a) In anticipation of achieving harmonised regulatory outcomes for animal welfare across the jurisdictions.
- b) That Guidelines remain voluntary as stipulated in the Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Development Business Plan^{iv}, any move to regulate guidelines would have to include rigorous industry consultation and be fully supported by science to prove long term animal welfare benefits.

WPA reserves the right to discontinue our involvement if we believe the original intent of this process is not upheld by other stakeholders.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jo Hall through the WPA office if you would like to discuss issues raised in this submission.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Power', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Geoff Power
President

ⁱ http://www.iwto.org/uploaded/publications/WEB_IWTO_Sheep_Welfare_Guidelines_Web.pdf

ⁱⁱ <http://www.woolproducers.com.au/media-releases/?news=259>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws/online>

^{iv} <http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2011/01/Animal-Welfare-Standards-and-Guidelines-Development-Business-Plan.pdf>