



Your strong and independent
voice for livestock producers

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31 January 2020

Mark Grave
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Wool Exchange Limited
PO Box 651, NORTH RYDE NSW 1670
(Email: mgrave@awex.com.au)

Dear Mark,

2019 Review of the National Wool Declaration

Livestock SA would like to support Wool Producers Australia's submission to AWEX's Review of the National Wool Declaration (NWD).

The NWD was developed specifically to provide details on mulesing status, as well as dark and medullated fibre risk. Mulesing as currently defined by the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines is *"The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears."*

The proposal to include the identification of alternative methods to mulesing adds another dimension that was not envisaged when the NWD was first introduced. In addition, this adds to confusion not only for growers, but along the wool pipeline including buyers, processors, retailers and customers. As the NWD is voluntary, this alteration could well mean that less wool producers will provide this. While Livestock SA does not agree with making the NWD mandatory, its use needs to be encouraged.

It is noted that 'Ceased Mulesing' is to be reformatted into two questions. Livestock SA's preference is for 'Ceased Mulesing' to be removed altogether from the NWD form. Ceased mulesing is defined as "Wool from sheep where mulesing has ceased on the property. No lambs born on the property in the last 12 months have been mulesed. No purchased sheep are mulesed." This category is now no longer relevant. By removing 'Ceased Mulesing' this will make the NWD more straight-forward and user-friendly.

Yours sincerely

Joe Keynes
President