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SHEEP ALLIANCE BOARD SETS ABOUT ITS APPROACH TO TASK

Member Update # 2

The new board of the Sheep Alliance of WA met this week to progress the issues tabled by its 40-plus members at its first members' forum and agree on an immediate course of action.

At their first meeting, the directors unanimously endorsed the selection panel recommendation that WAMMCO chairman and Kojonup producer Craig Heggaton take on the role as the Alliance chair and appointed Pingelly producer and veterinarian Tim Watts as their vice chair.

The directors identified two key immediate tasks it would tackle.

At the top of the Alliance agenda is the job of preparing a business case for investment in sheep research, extension and communication across the supply chain and responding to strong directive from the membership base to formulate a model for effective sheep R&D in WA.

The responsibility of preparing the business case will lie with the directors who will add additional expertise to the task to address specific elements listed in the terms of reference.

Expertise will be co-opted to provide:

- Input from WALRCs consultative process that has prioritised sheep meat R&D;
- Input from AWI and its relevant WA projects to provide wool priorities;
- RD&E program analysis, review and development expertise;
- Legal expertise to advise on best-practise governance models;
- Other as determined by the directors.

The terms of reference that sets the framework for the business case will be circulated to members for review and input later this week.

The Board considers the development of this document to be the launch pad for securing investment to fund a range of activities designed to drive profitability and arrest the sheep numbers decline.

The second immediate area of focus will be assisting DAFWA with the review of the Sheep Industry Business Innovations (SIBI) project.

Six of the 9 directors will attend the SIBI Review (SIBI Unplugged) on August 29.

"We see it as vital that all of industry has a thorough engagement with all current sheep industry RD&E projects and the invitation is there to all Alliance members to participate in the August 29 review," said executive officer Esther Jones.