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SHEEP ALLIANCE Member Update # 4

The Alliance board is meeting next Friday in Darkan. If members have any items they would like specifically addressed by the directors at this meeting, please let us know. The following is a summary of activities in the last month:

1. The Plan for future Investment in RD&E

The executive officer with technical support from several directors has commenced the preparation of investment plan. This is in its very early stages and will be thoroughly reviewed and workshopped by directors at the board meeting next week. Members will have a number of opportunities to consider and contribute to the plan. Your engagement with this document is vital as it needs to be genuinely "our plan". The contribution process will commence with asking for your electronic review of the early drafts, followed by what is expected to be a half day after-harvest workshop to thoroughly critique its content. By the next member update, we expect to include the first draft of the Plan for your initial review.

A key appendix to the plan will be a summary of sheep RD&E investment that is currently underway throughout the state. That template for the data capture is included in this communique. Any Alliance members who are working in the RD&E space are asked to complete and return this with your activities summarised, in order for us to build what will be a very useful picture supporting our rationale.

2. Opportunities for collaboration

The process of collecting the suite of RD&E activities underway at present has already highlighted the missed opportunities for collaboration or cross-communication between agencies, institutions and private service providers. The Sheep Alliance and the Grower Group Alliance took some first steps towards addressing the need for a more coordinated effort in responding to funding opportunities, by calling together all grower groups interested in submitting applications for the current MLA call for Producer Demonstration Sites. While the time frame for preparation will probably prohibit a true collaboration effort, the outcome from the meeting was each organisation sharing its high-level plans for submitting an application. The process also highlighted there is a big technical gap in that many grower groups felt they were missing the necessary 'livestock RD&E expertise' in order to design an effective application. The Alliance would love to see this gap filled in some way and expects to incorporate that response into its Plan.

3. Meeting with Alliance members

The Alliance chair Craig Heggaton presented to WAFarmers Livestock Council earlier this month. Any Alliance members seeking a presentation to their team/colleagues please just ask.



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