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December 19, 2016

SHEEP ALLIANCE Member Update # 6

The Alliance board next meets on Friday February 17, immediately following the February Members' Forum.

1. The Plan for future Investment in RD&E

Attached with this Members' Update is the executive summary of the Alliance draft proposal to Government to optimise the return on sheep RD&E activities in WA, through some significant proposed changes to the 'way of doing RD&E business. The philosophy is that these changes will ultimately drive greater adoption of management systems within WA sheep businesses, that in turn will better position the industry to capture profit.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed executive summary, or if time permits, please view the full draft proposal which is available at www.sheepalliance.com.au

The directors are now asking the membership to interrogate the proposal and rationale that underpins it, in order for us to refine the Plan and ensure it is ready to table to the State Government immediately post the March election.

The draft Plan will be presented to the Membership at a Members Forum on **Friday February 17** (see invitation attached). We urge your attendance at this meeting to ensure your input is incorporated and to help us test that we have the support of all our members ahead of taking it forward.

The Alliance membership has continued to grow since its foundation (the list of current members is available on the website) which gives the WA sheep industry the opportunity to clearly articulate to funders a 'whole of industry' agreed position.

2. Sheep Industry Open Day

The Alliance is working with DAFWA to prepare what will be a showcase of sheep RD&E at the Katanning Research Facility at the end of March 2017. The intention is that the event will showcase not only DAFWA funded research, but be an opportunity to put on show the full suite of activities being undertaken by Grower Groups, private service providers and the major research institutions. It is vital that our industry realises just how much effort is being undertaken to drive productivity gains of this sector. The missing link is the strategy to coordinate it all into a single message. The Sheep Alliance will be unwavering in its efforts to bring the RD&E community together for the benefit of all our stakeholders. Any Alliance members who wish to have the opportunity to present their R&D efforts at the Open Day should contact bruce.mullan@agric.wa.gov.au

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