



Secretariat C/- Bluesee | PO Box 668, Denmark 6333 Western Australia | esther@bluesee.com.au

April 27, 2017

SHEEP ALLIANCE Member Update #8

The Alliance board next meets on Wednesday May 10. Members are encouraged to table items for action by the board.

Sheep Alliance to host LambEx 2018

The Sheep Alliance has been invited by the LambEx Executive committee to undertake the hosting of the 2018 LambEx, which is set to come back to WA next August. The last two LambEx events (Adelaide 2014, Albury 2016) attracted crowds of almost 1000 delegates and so the responsibility to maintain the LambEx brand is significant. The hosting of LambEx is consistent with the Sheep Alliance strategy to promote best-practice sheep business systems throughout WA. We are just waiting for the final tick-off from the State Government and then The Alliance will be calling for expressions of interest from throughout its membership for persons interesting in being part of the LambEx programming committee.

AWI and MLA meetings call for a coordinated 'significant' WA proposal

Sheep Alliance chair, vice chair and executive officer met with AWI CEO Stuart McCullough; MLA R&D manager Sean Starling and MLA Adoption manager Mick Crowley in Sydney last week to discuss gaps in the current research and extension approach in WA.

Both organisations encouraged the Alliance to rapidly progress 'significant and collaborative' project proposal/s in order to instigate projects that would investigate research issues that are unique to WA and extension programs that would drive the adoption gap. There was in principle agreement from each that there was a lack of a dedicated resource to progress the development of major research and extension proposals and a suggestion that the Alliance should seek the expertise to fill that gap.

The Alliance view is that there is a major funding opportunity available to WA providing there is a calibre business case to underpin a proposed body of work. The constant theme was the frustration around poor adoption levels of proven decision support systems relating to pastures, feedbase, business and genetic management. Following the next meeting of Directors it is expected that the Alliance will seek to form a sub-committee from suitably qualified general members to lead a period of project development.

Minister meets with Sheep Alliance

Sheep Alliance directors also had the opportunity last week to report the outcomes of the Sydney meetings to Minister for Agriculture and Food Alannah MacTiernan. Alliance director Dave Pethick together with chair and executive officer discussed with the minister the best approach to responding to the MLA/AWI messages and strategies to ensure DAFWA and university collaboration in the response process. The current pressures on sheep numbers/processing/exporting were also central to the discussion, as were strategies to optimise the on-ground impact of the SIBI project.

Sheep Alliance supports WA Beef Council

The WA Beef council staged a series of meetings last week to explore appetite for re-forming on the basis of a membership structure similar to that of the Sheep Alliance, and are testing the appetite for eventually merging the two entities once the current suite of activities are completed.

Craig Heggaton

Chair

0429 882 822

craig@genstock.com.au

Esther Jones

Executive Officer

0418 931 938

esther@bluesee.com.au

