

2 June 2010

## National Wool Declaration – Integrity Program

### COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

The AWEX National Wool Declaration (NWD) allows wool growers to provide a declaration about their sheep husbandry practices for the use of the potential customers of Australian wool. The *Mulesing Status* and the *Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Rating* generated for eligible lots is made available in Sale Catalogues and Test Certificates allowing the data to be transferred along the wool pipeline.

**AWEX is pleased to announce that the National Wool Declaration-Integrity Program (NWD-IP) which is jointly funded by AWEX and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry's Promoting Australian Produce program, commenced on Monday 24 May 2010.**

The main aim of the NWD - Integrity Program (NWD-IP) is to develop and implement an education, extension and integrity program for Mulesing Status. These activities are designed to support and promote the attributes and reliability of supply of Australian wool, both locally and internationally. This will provide credibility to the NWD so buyers, processors and retailers have confidence in declarations. AWEX is undertaking this program based on its independence and experience in conducting quality assurance programs.

While a Desktop Audit conducted randomly on 5% of all declarations has been conducted since August 2008, the NWD-IP expands this concept to include a Desktop Authentication of Pain Relief and On-Farm Inspections for declarations of Non-Mulesed and Ceased Mulesing Status. The initial framework for the NWD-IP program was previously developed by an Industry Working Group that reported to the AWEX Board.

The first activity within the NWD-IP is the appointment and training of an On-Farm Inspector(s). Advertisements have this week been placed in the rural newspapers for each state, with applications closing on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The job description and selection criteria is available from [info@awex.com.au](mailto:info@awex.com.au) or 02 9428 6100.

To encourage the involvement of all sectors in the program, industry stakeholders are invited to make submissions to AWEX regarding any aspect of the NWD-IP. Submissions may include suggestions for education and training or requests for attendance of AWEX staff at field days or other industry meetings. Please send your submission to AWEX by COB on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 via email to Dr Kerry Hansford, p. 03 9318 0277, e. [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au).

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Update Reference: 2976

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