Australian Wool Production Forecast Report

July 2009

Australian Wool Innovation Production Forecasting Committee

Summary

- Total Australian shorn wool production is forecast to decline to 330 mkg greasy in 2009/10, This is 5 mkg greasy lower than the Committee's March forecast and around 30 mkg greasy lower than the estimate for the 2008/09 season.
- Shorn wool production in 2008/09 is estimated at 359 mkg greasy, a fall of 10% compared with the 2007/08 season. This is higher than the March forecast as AWTA wool tests in April-June were higher than the Committee previously anticipated.

Table 1: Summary of wool production forecasts for Australia

	2007/08	2008/09e	*change*	2009/10f	*change*
Sheep numbers shorn (million head)	90.2	81.0	*-10%*	73.4	*-9%*
Average cut per head (kg/head)	4.43	4.43	*0%*	4.46	*+1%*
Shorn wool production (mkg greasy)	400	359	*-10.0%*	330	*-8.1%*

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

- The main driver for the lower wool production in 2009/10 is the lower number of sheep in Australia. The Australian sheep flock is being affected by the production of sheep for meat, with more lambs being produced and slaughtered and strong demand for live export, particularly from Western Australia.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently released its final estimate of the number of sheep in Australia as at 1st July 2008. At 76.9 million head, this is 2.3 million less than ABS' preliminary estimate.
- Based on this lower estimate, together with the latest statistics on sheep and lamb slaughterings and live sheep exports from the ABS, the Committee estimates that opening sheep numbers for the 2009/10 season will be around 70 million head, a fall of around 8%. While sheep numbers in 2009/10 are lower, reports from the state committees indicate that growers are keen to retain merino ewes as the basis of their enterprises, which is a positive for wool production beyond 2009/10.
- Even though there has been good rain in northern Australia and at least some rainfall in southern Australia in recent weeks, average fleece weights are likely to be up only slightly in 2009/10. Fleece weights will be lower than historical levels due to fewer heavier-cutting wethers and more ewes and lambs in the national flock.
- Wool production is forecast to fall in every state in 2009/10, with the smallest percentage declines compared with 2008/09 expected in Tasmania and South Australia, and the largest declines expected in the largest wool producing states of Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.
- The production of superfine wool is expected to see the greatest percentage fall in 2009/10. This reduction is due to a combination of better seasonal conditions in some areas, greater use of terminal sires and a focus by growers on a combination of fleece and body weights.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Mr Russell Pattinson, National Committee Chairman
Tel: +61 03 5429 1868

Wool Production Estimates and Forecasts

Estimate for season 2008/09

Australian shorn wool production is estimated at 359 mkg greasy, 4 mkg more than the Committee's forecast made in March.

The Committee revised its estimate up in line with AWTA test statistics for the full season. AWTA tests were higher in the April to June period than in the January to March period and higher than previously expected by the Committee. For example, in June, AWTA wool tests were only down 0.2% in weight compared with June 2008. In total, AWTA wool tests were down 9.4% for the 2008/09 season at 384.4 mkg greasy.

Based on advice from each state committee, the national Committee took into account these results, together with the AWEX brand analysis data and ABS wool receivals data in considering a revision to its estimate.

The Committee's estimate for each state and the national total is shown in Table 2. Shorn wool production was lower in every state in 2008/09 than in 2007/08, with the most notable drop in South Australia, down 18%.

Table 2: Summary of state wool production estimates over last 6 seasons

mkg greasy	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	National
2003/04	21	165	93	15	65	115	475
2004/05	23	165	98	15	63	112	475
2005/06	22	156	92	13	58	122	461
2006/07	21	140	89	12	63	105	430
2007/08	19	138	82	10	59	92	400
2008/09e	18	125	75	9	48	85	359
y-o-y % change	*-6%*	*-10%*	*-8%*	*-10%*	*-18%*	*-8%*	*-10%*

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

The main reason for the estimated fall in shorn wool production in each state in 2008/09 is the fall in the number of sheep. As shown in Table 3 on the next page, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that the number of sheep across Australia was down by 10%, with the largest falls in Tasmania (down 23%), Western Australia (down 16.5%) and South Australia (down 14.4%). These revised estimates were released in May and at 76.9 million head across Australia, this is 2.3 million less than ABS' preliminary estimate.

As a result, the Committee estimates that the number of sheep shorn in each state was also down by between 7% and 14%.

The Committee estimates that the average wool cut per head across Australia was unchanged compared with the 2007/08 season, with some states seeing an increase in the average wool cut per head (largely reflecting better seasonal conditions in Queensland and Western Australia), but down in other states.

Table 3: 2008/09 State and National Production Estimates

	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	AUST
Opening number of sheep (million head)	3.96	26.38	16.77	2.14	9.96	17.65	76.90
% change on 2007/08	*-9.5%*	*-7.8%*	*-2.4%*	*-22.5%*	*-14.4%*	*-16.5%*	*-10.3%*
Sheep shorn (million head)	4.08	27.35	18.24	2.55	10.06	18.74	81.01
% change on 2007/08	*-8%*	*-8%*	*-7%*	*-12%*	*-14%*	*-14%*	*-10%*
Average cut head (kg/head)	4.43	4.57	4.12	3.41	4.73	4.52	4.43
% change on 2007/08	*+2%*	*-2%*	*-1%*	*+2%*	*-5%*	*+7%*	*0.0%*
Shorn Wool Production (mkg greasy)	18.1	125.0	75.2	8.7	47.5	84.7	359.2
% change on 2007/08	*-6%*	*-10%*	*-8%*	*-10%*	*-18%*	*-8%*	*-10%*

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and AWIPFC. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Latest Industry Statistics for the 2008/09 Season

AWTA test volumes, AWEX auction offerings, AWEX brand analysis data and ABS data on wool receivals by state of origin for the season to date all point to lower supplies and production of Australian wool in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08.

Table 4 shows the key AWTA, AWEX and ABS data for the 2008/09 season and the change compared with the year earlier.

Table 4: AWTA tests, AWEX offerings and ABS receivals data for 2008/09

% change year-on-year	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	Aust
AWTA tests	-6.5%	-9.2%	-7.5%	-9.3%	-17.6%	-8.1%	-9.4%
AWEX auction total offerings	0.0%	-11.1%	-7.3%	-25.1%	-17.9%	-4.7%	-9.6%
AWEX auction first-hand offerings	-0.8%	-10.8%	-8.4%	-24.7%	-19.7%	-3.5%	-9.7%
AWEX brand analysis	-4.7%	-7.4%	-7.5%	-16.7%	-11.6%	-5.5%	-7.7%
ABS wool receivals	-9.5%	-12.3%	-10.0%	-3.0%%	-14.4%	-0.7%	-9.3%

Note: AWTA tests based on wool statistical area data ie state of origin for the full 2008/09 season
AWEX auction offerings and brand analysis data to week 51.
ABS data to end March 2009 by state of origin.

Forecast for 2009/10

The Committee revised its forecast for the 2009/10 season based on the input from the six state committees, which met in the week prior to the national Committee meeting. In considering their recommendations to the national, the state committees took into account the seasonal conditions and rainfall pattern since March, the ABS sheep numbers for 1st July 2008, slaughterings of lambs and adult sheep and live sheep exports during the 2008/09 season.

Based on this input, the Wool Production Forecasting Committee revised its forecast of shorn wool production in 2009/10 to 330 mkg greasy. This is 5 mkg lower than the Committee's first forecast in March and around 30 mkg lower than the estimate for the 2008/09 season.

Table 5 shows the comparison of the Committee's revised forecast for 2009/10 with its previous forecast and the state-by-state estimate for 2008/09.

Table 5: Comparison of State and National forecasts

Wool Production (mkg greasy)	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	AUST
Estimate for 2008/09	18	125	75	8.7	48	85	359
March forecast for 2009/10	--	--	--	--	--	--	335
July forecast for 2009/10	17	116	68	8.5	46	72	330
% change on 2008/09	*-5%*	*-7%*	*-9%*	*-2%*	*-4%*	*-15%*	*-9%*

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding. (f) = forecast

The Committee revised its wool production forecast for 2009/10 down due to the lower number of sheep its estimates were on hand on 1st July 2009, the start of the 2009/10 season.

The Australian sheep flock is being affected by the production of sheep for meat, with more lambs being produced and slaughtered and strong demand for live export, particularly from Western Australia.

Based on the ABS' lower estimate for the number of sheep at 1st July 2008, together with the latest statistics for 2008/09 on sheep and lamb slaughterings and live sheep exports from the ABS, the Committee estimates that opening sheep numbers for the 2009/10 season were around 70 million head, a fall of around 8%.

While sheep numbers in 2009/10 are estimated to be lower, reports from the state committees indicate that growers are keen to retain merino ewes as the basis of their enterprises, which is a positive for wool production beyond 2009/10. ABS' statistics show that, as at 1st July 2008, 59% of the Australian flock were breeding ewes and this proportion is likely to have increased further in the past 12 months, based on the reports from the state committees that adult and lamb wethers have been sold for slaughter and live export over the past 12 months.

Given the estimated fall in opening sheep numbers for the 2009/10, the Committee forecasts that the number of sheep shorn in Australia will fall by 9% in 2009/10.

Even though there has been good rain in northern Australia and at least some rainfall in southern Australia in recent weeks, average fleece weights are likely to be up only slightly in 2009/10. Fleece weights will be lower than historical levels due to fewer heavier-cutting wethers and more ewes and lambs in the national flock.

Table 6 shows the details of the Committee's forecast for 2009/10 by state, including the estimated number of sheep at 1st July 2009, the predicted number of sheep shorn, forecast average cut per head and forecast wool production levels.

Table 6: 2009/10 State and National Production Forecast

	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	AUST
Opening sheep numbers at 1st July 2009 (million head)	3.7	24.0	15.2	2.2	8.9	15.6	70.0
% change on 2008/09	*-7%*	*-9%*	*-9%*	*+1%*	*-11%*	*-12%*	*-9%*
Sheep shorn (million head)	3.8	24.9	16.6	2.5	9.1	16.6	73.4
% change on 2008/09	*-7%*	*-9%*	*-9%*	*-2%*	*-10%*	*-11%*	*-9%*
Average cut head (kg/head)	4.52	4.65	4.12	3.41	5.06	4.34	4.46
% change on 2008/09	*+2%*	*+2%*	*0%*	*0%*	*+7%*	*-4%*	*1%*
Shorn Wool Production (mkg greasy)	17	116	68	8.5	46	72	330
% change on 2008/09	*-5%*	*-7%*	*-9%*	*-2%*	*-4%*	*-15%*	*-9%*

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

As can be seen from Table 6, wool production is forecast to fall in every state in 2009/10, with the smallest percentage declines compared with 2008/09 expected in Tasmania and South Australia, and the largest declines expected in the largest wool producing states of Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.

The greatest fall in shorn wool production in 2009/10 is forecast for **Western Australia**, the second largest wool producing state. The Committee forecasts that shorn wool production will decline by 15% to 75 mkg greasy due to a combination of both lower sheep numbers and lower average wool cut per head. Seasonal conditions in WA are now about average, after the autumn break was around four weeks late. As a result, the season is not as good as at the same time in the 2008/09 season, with reports that growers are still hand-feeding in some wool-producing areas. Fleece weights are therefore likely to be lower at least in the first half of the 2009/10 season. This, combined with a higher proportion of ewes and lambs in the WA flock and fewer wethers, is expected to bring lower average cut per head over the season. The prices for adult sheep have been at very high levels in recent months, driven by strong demand for live export. Based on this, the Committee estimates that the number of sheep at the start of the season will be down by 12%, which will mostly flow through to lower sheep shorn numbers.

Shorn wool production in the largest wool producing state, **New South Wales**, is forecast to be significantly lower in 2009/10. Production is forecast to be at 116 mkg greasy, down 7% on the estimated level for 2008/09. Seasonal conditions are average to good in significant parts of the state, particularly in the northern half. There has been significant rainfall in recent weeks, including much of the southern half which has been a major relief. This rainfall means that for much of the state seasonal conditions are better than twelve months ago. There are still areas where rainfall has been minimal and seasonal conditions are very poor, notably in the Monaro region in the south-east of the state. As a result of the better seasonal conditions and growers focusing on maintaining body size and fleece weights, average wool cut per head is likely to be up a little. The rise will be constrained by the change in the flock structure, with a much lower proportion of the heavier-cutting wethers now in the NSW flock than in the past.

The state committee believes that growers in this state are maintaining the number of merino ewes as the base for both wool and lamb production. The very modest rise in fleece weights will be more than offset by an estimated 9% decline in both the opening number of sheep for the 2009/10 season and in the number of sheep shorn.

Seasonal conditions in the main wool-producing regions of **Victoria** remain very dry, continuing the trend seen in the past five or six years. The main concern for the state is the lack of water for sheep, which is constraining the carrying capacity for woolgrowers, particularly in the Western District in the south-west of the state. As a result, seasonal conditions are mostly worse than a year ago, except for regions in the central-west of the state (around the Grampians). Fleece weights are not expected to change at all in Victoria in 2009/10. The Committee estimates that the number of sheep at 1st July 2009 in Victoria were down by 9% to 24 million head as growers have taken advantage of the high sheep and lamb prices and sold stock. This is predicted to bring a 9% fall in the shorn wool production in 2009/10 to 68 mkg greasy.

Shorn wool production in **South Australia** is forecast to fall by only 4% in 2009/10 to 46 mkg greasy despite another large decline in sheep numbers in that state. South Australia saw the largest drop in sheep numbers in 2008/09 as growers in that state moved away from wool production, in part due to the very dry seasonal conditions and in part in response to high mutton and lamb prices. Seasonal conditions have, however, improved significantly in the past few months, with extensive rainfall through the centre of the state from west to east. Rainfall in the large wool producing areas in the south-east corner of the state remains poor, as it does in the northern pastoral areas. With more consistent rainfall in most parts of the state than in the past two seasons, the state committee believes that seasonal conditions are better than a year ago. As a result, average cut per head is expected to be up by 7% in 2009/10. However, as with other states, the number of sheep shorn is forecast to fall sharply in South Australia, down 10%, in line with a predicted 11% fall in the opening sheep numbers. This will more than offset the predicted lift in average fleece weights.

Wool production in **Queensland** in 2009/10 will be helped by seasonal conditions which are said to be mostly average across the wool-growing regions of the state. Rainfall in much of the state has been good, with the exception of the south-west corner which has been dry until recent weeks. This points to a lift in the average wool cut per head for the state, although the lift will be constrained by the absence of wethers which have traditionally been the heavy wool producing sheep. The national Committee predicts that average wool cut per head will lift by 2% in 2009/10. It also estimates that the opening number of sheep for the 2009/10 in Queensland will be 3.7 million head, a fall of 7% compared with a year earlier. This will result in a 7% drop in the number of sheep shorn, which is the reason for the predicted 5% fall in wool production in the state for 2009/10 to 17 mkg greasy. The state committee believes that growers are endeavouring to retain merino ewes as the base for their sheep enterprises, both for wool and for meat, which is a positive for wool production beyond 2009/10.

The driver for wool production from **Tasmania** in 2009/10 will be the number and type of sheep on hand at the start of the season. As in other states, there has been a significant sell-off of wethers in response to the poor seasonal conditions and excellent prices for adult sheep for slaughter. The state committee believes that merino ewes make up a significant portion of the state's flock, with growers retaining the ewes for both wool and meat production once seasonal conditions improve. Seasonal conditions remain poor across the state, despite recent rainfall, although the state committee believes they are better than a year ago. Average fleece weights are not expected to change in 2009/10. Opening sheep numbers are estimated to be up very slightly at the start of the 2009/10 season, but the number of sheep shorn is predicted to be 2% lower than in 2008/08, with fewer lambs being shorn. The increased use of terminal sires to produce lambs for slaughter (without having been shorn) is the key factor in this. The Committee predicts that shorn wool production in Tasmania will be at 8.5 mkg greasy in 2009/10, down 2% on 2008/09.

Australian micron profile for 2009/10

The Committee prepared its first forecast for the micron profile of the Australian wool clip in 2009/10. A summary of the forecast by micron range is given in Table 7 below.

As can be seen in Table 7, the production of superfine wool is expected to see the greatest percentage fall in 2009/10. The fall in the production volume of superfine wool (18.5um and finer) predicted for the 2009/10 season continues the trend seen since 2006/07. As a result, the share of this micron range of the total production is predicted to fall to 17%, compared with over 19% in 2008/09.

Production of wool in the 20.6um to 24.5um range is expected to fall least, to 107 mkg greasy, mainly due to better seasonal conditions in some states, notably Queensland and New South Wales.

There are four major reasons for this shift in the micron profile of the Australian clip to more medium merino wool.

- Better seasonal conditions in the northern half of eastern Australia for the 2009/10 wool growing season compared with the year earlier has resulted in a broadening of the wool shorn in these regions.
- Increased emphasis by woolgrowers on a combination of fleece and body weights.
- Greater joinings of merino ewes to terminal sires has lifted the proportion of broader wool.
- The shift to fine and superfine merino sheep seen in the first half of the decade appears to have halted, largely due to lower superfine wool prices.

Table 7. Volume of production by micron category

mkg	**18.5um and finer**	**18.6um to 20.5um**	**20.6um to 24.5um**	**24.6 um and broader**
2006/07	85	141	144	60
2007/08	73	142	131	57
2008/09e	69	128	114	49
2009/10f	56	119	107	45
% change	*-19%*	*-7%*	*-6%*	*-7%*

Notes: 2008/09 derived from AWTA test data and Committee's estimate. (e) = estimate (f) = forecast

Full details of the micron profile for 2009/10 compared with the past four seasons are given in Table 8 and the micron profile forecast by state is given in Table 9 (both on the following pages).

Table 8: Australian micron profile - forecasts & estimates for last 5 years

National	<16.5	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25/26	27/28	29/30	>30
2005/06 AWTA	1.5%	4.7%	9.7%	15.1%	18.7%	17.1%	11.5%	5.9%	2.9%	3.9%	4.5%	2.9%	1.6%
2006/07 AWTA	2.0%	5.9%	11.8%	15.9%	17.0%	14.0%	9.9%	6.2%	3.4%	4.3%	4.4%	3.2%	2.1%
2007/08 AWTA	2.0%	5.3%	10.9%	16.8%	18.4%	14.3%	9.2%	5.5%	3.0%	4.1%	4.8%	3.6%	2.2%
2008/09 AWTA	2.1%	5.7%	11.4%	16.7%	18.8%	15.4%	9.5%	4.6%	2.3%	3.6%	4.7%	3.4%	1.8%
2009/10f AWIPFC	1.9%	5.1%	10.2%	16.7%	19.6%	16.2%	9.5%	4.9%	2.3%	3.7%	4.7%	3.6%	1.8%

Table 9: AWIPFC forecast micron profile 2009/10f by State

States	<16.5	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25/26	27/28	29/30	>30
QLD	0.8%	3.0%	6.0%	15.6%	28.5%	27.0%	11.5%	3.5%	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.1%
NSW	3.2%	7.5%	12.0%	17.5%	18.8%	13.5%	6.0%	3.0%	2.0%	4.5%	6.0%	4.5%	1.5%
VIC	2.0%	6.0%	12.0%	14.5%	14.5%	11.0%	7.0%	4.0%	2.5%	6.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.5%
TAS	7.4%	16.0%	23.0%	18.5%	7.0%	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	2.1%	5.0%	7.0%	4.0%	4.0%
SA	0.1%	0.5%	2.5%	8.0%	15.0%	23.0%	24.5%	14.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.0%	1.0%
WA	0.4%	2.5%	10.0%	23.0%	28.0%	20.0%	8.5%	3.6%	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
AUST	1.9%	5.1%	10.2%	16.7%	19.6%	16.2%	9.5%	4.9%	2.3%	3.7%	4.7%	3.6%	1.8%

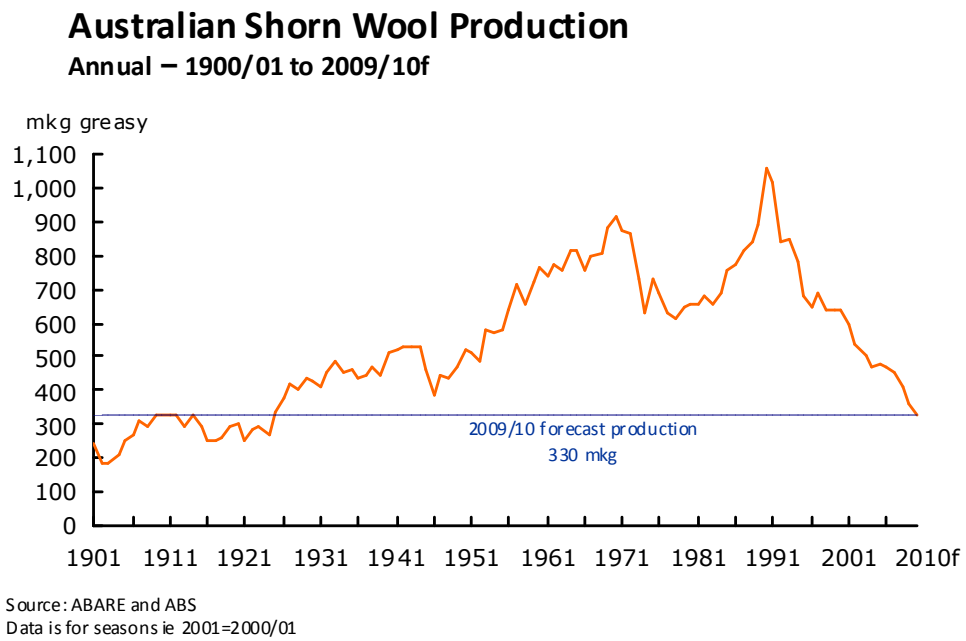
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Historical Australian Production Figures

The following table provides historical sheep numbers, wool production and fleece weight statistics since 1997/98 for background information. The chart shows wool production levels in Australia since 1900.

	Opening Sheep Numbers (million)	**Sheep Shorn** (million)	**Average Cut Per Head** (kg/head)	**Shorn Wool Production** (mkg greasy)
1997/98	120.1	150	4.22	633
1998/99	117.4	153.6	4.33	665
1999/00	115.4	144.2	4.30	619
2000/01	118.5	139.5	4.31	602
2001/02	110.8	118.6	4.68	555
2002/03	106.1	116.6	4.28	499
2003/04	99.2	104.7	4.53	475
2004/05	101.2	106.0	4.49	475
2005/06	101.1	106.5	4.33	461
2006/07	91.0	101.4	4.24	430
2007/08	85.7	90.2	4.43	400
2008/09e	76.9	81.0	4.43	359
2009/10f	70.0	73.4	4.46	330

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding. Source: AWPFC (incl March 2006 revised series)



Source: ABARE and ABS
Data is for seasons ie 2001=2000/01

The following table provides the historical micron profile for Australian wool for background information.

Micron profile of Australian wool (% share)

Year	<18.5	19	20	21	22	23	24	25/26	27/28	29/30	>30
1991/92	4.0%	7.9%	15.2%	21.5%	20.0%	13.4%	7.1%	5.5%	2.9%	1.6%	1.0%
1992/93	2.2%	5.4%	12.0%	19.9%	20.6%	15.6%	10.0%	7.9%	3.0%	1.9%	1.6%
1993/94	3.0%	5.5%	12.1%	18.8%	20.8%	15.7%	10.0%	7.4%	2.8%	1.9%	1.7%
1994/95	4.2%	8.6%	15.2%	20.9%	19.9%	13.0%	7.0%	4.7%	2.8%	2.0%	1.7%
1995/96	3.9%	8.2%	15.3%	20.8%	18.5%	13.2%	8.1%	6.0%	2.7%	1.8%	1.6%
1996/97	4.8%	9.7%	15.3%	20.2%	18.3%	13.1%	7.4%	5.3%	2.3%	1.9%	1.8%
1997/98	5.9%	9.8%	14.8%	19.4%	18.3%	12.8%	7.7%	5.4%	2.6%	1.8%	1.5%
1998/99	5.4%	8.8%	14.6%	19.6%	18.6%	14.0%	7.6%	5.1%	2.7%	2.0%	1.5%
1999/00	5.3%	9.3%	14.4%	19.1%	18.2%	13.6%	7.7%	5.2%	2.9%	2.4%	1.9%
2000/01	6.7%	11.1%	15.7%	18.5%	16.4%	11.4%	6.8%	5.1%	3.6%	2.8%	1.9%
2001/02	9.5%	14.4%	19.9%	18.9%	12.9%	7.7%	4.1%	3.7%	3.8%	3.1%	1.9%
2002/03	14.6%	15.7%	18.9%	17.6%	12.0%	6.6%	2.9%	3.4%	3.7%	2.9%	1.7%
2003/04	14.2%	15.8%	18.3%	16.6%	11.9%	7.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%	2.9%	1.8%
2004/05	15.9%	16.5%	18.7%	16.0%	10.7%	6.2%	3.2%	3.6%	4.1%	3.1%	2.0%
2005/06	15.8%	15.1%	18.7%	17.1%	11.5%	5.9%	2.9%	3.9%	4.5%	2.9%	1.6%
2006/07	19.7%	15.9%	17.0%	14.0%	9.9%	6.2%	3.4%	4.3%	4.4%	3.2%	2.1%
2007/08	18.2%	16.8%	18.4%	14.3%	9.2%	5.5%	3.0%	4.1%	4.8%	3.6%	2.2%
2008/09	19.2%	16.7%	18.8%	15.4%	9.5%	4.6%	2.3%	3.6%	4.7%	3.4%	1.8%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding. Source: Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA)

Explanation of Revised AWPFC Data Series

At the December 2005 meeting, the national Committee made the decision to collate and review the key variables (shorn wool production, cut per head, number of sheep shorn) used in the committee from the available industry sources and to create a consistent historical data series at both a state and national level. This was required as some differences existed between industry accepted figures and the AWPFC data series and to ensure a consistent methodology over time. This process resulted in changes to the parameters 'average cut per head' and the 'number of sheep shorn' for some seasons at both a state and national level.

Modus operandi for the AWI Production Forecasting Committee

The AWI Wool Production Forecasting Committee draws together a range of objective data and qualitative information to produce consensus based, authoritative forecasts four times a year for Australian wool production.

The Committee has a two-level structure, with a National Committee considering information and advice from state sub-committees.

The National and state sub-committees comprise wool producers, wool brokers, exporters, processors, private treaty merchants, AWEX, AWTA, ABARE, ABS, MLA, Dept of Ag WA and The Woolmark Company.

It is funded by Australian Wool Innovation Limited, which also provides a representative in the role of the Chairman of the National Committee.

The Committee releases its forecasts of production in the form of a press release and a report providing the detailed forecasts, historical data and commentary on the key drivers of the forecasts.