SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FOR THE MEETING OF THE WOOL INDUSTRY EDP USERS GROUP HELD ON MONDAY THE 23rd OF APRIL 2007

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1. Conversion of AWTA's EDI System to run under the Windows Operating System

The committee was advised of AWTA's move from a mainframe system to a Windows based operating system. The regional laboratories have already been upgraded and work on AWTA's central systems is underway, the EDI system has yet to be started.

2. FAWO Proposals for Changes to IWTO Test Certificate Suffixes

The committee was advised of possible changes to IWTO Test Certificate Suffixes that have been formulated by a working group that is looking into the issue of compliance with Australian and international standards.

The consensus was that the changes were likely to require an editorial release. Before any timelines and changes could be made it would be necessary to get confirmation from IWTO that the changes have been ratified.

3. Future Directions

The committee reviewed the current use of EDI within the Wool Industry, its technical strengths and weaknesses, and considered the use of other technologies for the future.

Presentations were made by six members and all aspects of EDI were discussed at length. Topics included record formats, future of 80 column text records, other format options including XML, delivery mechanisms including networks, FTP and email, and implementation options for version releases.

The main issues coming out of the presentations and discussion are document formats and the "big bang" release. The delivery mechanism for data (FTP) will remain as it is at this stage.

The document format that is being proposed by the committee is XML. To move forward the proposal will need to be put to the EDP Policy Committee in a formal document. It should be noted that it will be hard to put cost figures together for the document.

4. Other Business

Overseas Customers
An overseas entity will be making a presentation at IWTO with regard to standard formats of data transmission to overseas mills. It will be suggested that WIEDPUG should be involved as the keeper of the standards, and this was agreed to by the committee.

Bale Description Field
The AWEX Code of Practice has been issued and it will now require the Bale Description field to be increased from 15 characters to accommodate some of the new descriptions in the release. It is

understood that this will not be able to be implemented until later next year when the next full version is released. This is not a big issue as only a very small percentage of lots will be affected (estimated to be less than one percent). The change will be documented and presented to the committee at a later date.

5.   Next Meeting

TBA