

SPA Update (July 2019)

Occasionally, one of SPA members will request a snapshot of what is being covered by SPA policy and any associated activities. The below was provided recently in response to questions on specific policy areas, and may assist SPA Committee members gain an overview of the issues currently being covered.

Much of a sheep industry 'position' is covered covered within the Sheep Industry Strategic Plan (see attached), with which we work with (and monitor) our service providers to implement. Below I have tried to cover the request with an update on current policies and workings which are covered through our Committee processes:

- Animal Welfare – SPA is putting together an Animal Welfare Statement to cover our overall goals in this area, (this should be completed this month) in general however SPA;
 - o Supports the Standards and Guidelines Processes at a national and state label
 - o Encourages the use of Best Practice
- Animal Activists
 - o Supports moves for increasing penalties for those that invade private property (however we are part of the policy committees with NFF and do not have a formal SPA only policy position)
 - o SPA also supports industry improving measures to ensure producer standards in animal welfare are communicated and upheld
- APVMA
 - o SPA has no policy regarding the location of the APVMA, but obviously will encourage and assist industry (with direct representation) where delays occur in the processing of applications
- Biosecurity
 - o In conjunction with WPA, SPA was involved in the process of de-regulating part of the OJD framework, but is supportive of vaccination and SheepMAP
 - o SPA called for and has been participating in the Footrot Working Group via Animal Health Australia, in attempt to coordinate the emergence of new strains and the use of the latest research to contain any increase in prevalence
 - o SPA has worked with WPA in producing and now implementing (with AHA) the National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy

- Importation of Livestock
 - o SPA has no formal policy, however is supportive of Government restrictions in how and where both livestock and genetic material in general can be sourced
 - o SPA is part of biosecurity forums to work collectively in preventing Emergency Animal Diseases (EAD's) entering Australia particularly FMD and Scrapie, which leads the lists on why restrictions are in place
 - o SPA respects the rights of states to impose conditions of the movement of livestock between states, but does call on states to ensure a science-based approach when making and implementing policy

- Live Export
 - o SPA has a policy through the SISF, to maintain and grow the Live Export industry. SPA's recent actions in coordinating combined industry efforts (and communications with Government) responding to the various enquiries, is testimony to these efforts.

- Mulesing
 - o SPA policy is for Mulesing to be phased out when viable alternatives become available. SPA supports best practice when mulesing which includes pain relief

- Tail Docking
 - o SPA does not have any formal policy other than to follow best practice guidelines – which include the appropriate length of the remaining tail.
 - o SPA is monitoring the development of Numnuts and will review policy after further trials have been completed

- Traceability
 - o SPA is part of the Traceability Working Group working with SFO and State Governments, which called for (and is assisting with the implementation of) a cost benefit analysis of the Victorian EID System, compared with the mob-based system in other states. Once the data has been collected and reviewed, SPA will re-examine our policy position

- Dentition
 - o The change to lamb definition is occurring on the 1st of July 2019, which was the result of an on-going program of consultation and implementation in conjunction with AMIC. SPA did implement the policy of aligning with NZ definition of lamb

- Wild Dog/Feral Animal Management
 - o SPA has supported the Wild Dog Action Plan – headed by Greg Mifsud, including a project to fund coordinators with a \$250,000 project with industry reserves held at AHA
 - o SPA was also happy to support through supporting letters to Government) the fencing infrastructure project (fencing) at Esperance

- Market Access and Trade

SPA will always push for improved market access to give producers and processors the most options possible to market the finished product and gain the best farmgate outcome, including;

 - o Supporting Australian negotiators in AU and UK FTA negotiations
 - o Communicating industry requirements through any outcome in RCEP
 - o Supporting ratification of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and IA-CEPA (Indonesia)
 - o Maintaining Live sheep access as well as meat access to markets where cold chain capabilities are improving
 - o Working on strategies for Australia to keep a positive presence in markets (including domestic) during current conditions of limited supply and high prices
 - o Working with MLA in markets to improve the feedback to producers and processors on what consumers changing requirements are, and where the main competition is coming from.

SPA works with three policy committees, each of which has WA representation (Chairing the Marketing and Market Access Committee). We are always very happy to get engagement from SFO's to assist in ensuring we have the best policies that maintain the health of the industry, without placing undue regulatory burdens on producers.

If you require a deeper dive into any of the above – or just need clarification, please let me know, and I will be happy to provide more detail where I can.

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