



10 February 2003

## AWI Slashes Trade Policy Unit

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AWI confirmed the consolidation of its Trade Policy services division today with the announcement that its Canberra office will be closing immediately, as part of a restructure aimed to achieve greater efficiencies in the organisation.

AWI's Trade Policy Services will now be based out of Melbourne, under the supervision of the Trade Policy Manager, Mr Bob Quirk.

AWI's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Ward said that AWI will continue to provide the same professional standard and level of trade policy services but in a more cost effective manner.

"The Board of AWI are maintaining their commitment to provide high quality, reliable trade policy services to government and policy makers on behalf of its woolgrower shareholders but they are also very aware of the need for efficiencies in an organisation such as AWI.

"After examining the way in which wool trade policy services were being provided, a decision has been made to outsource these on a contractual basis and consolidate the management of such services in Melbourne," Mr Ward said.

Mr Ward added that AWI's Manager Trade Policy, Bob Quirk, had a wealth of experience and contacts in this area and was more than capable of ensuring that services would continue in the same manner in the future.

"This is a sensible, rational business decision that allows us to maintain the same level of trade policy services at a much more reasonable cost to woolgrowers," Mr Ward said.

Ends

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