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Wool Forum moves towards ending wool boycotts.

A well attended and dynamic wool forum held in Sydney last weekend has taken a huge step forward towards the process of removing the international boycotts of Australian wool due to the controversial practice of mulesing.

A diverse representation of industry participants including NSW Shadow Primary Industry Minister the Hon Duncan Gay, high profile processor and exporter Mr Roger Fletcher, NSW Stud Merino Breeders President Kim Henderson with brokers and growers along with representatives of animal welfare groups all witnessed the first step in bringing about a shared effort seeking resolution to this growing crisis in the wool industry.

A ground breaking presentation on the use of a pain relief and wound healing agent was presented at the forum receiving widespread acclaim, including support from Animal Liberation NSW CEO Mr Mark Pearson.

Mr Pearson stated in his address that “this was a serious and significant move forward and further that Animal Liberation NSW would stand by this development and recommend that international animal welfare groups should review the boycott.”

In detail the forum overwhelmingly supported the following

That this forum recognised the need to take immediate action to address the threats to the industry, following from international boycotts.

That this forum acknowledges the concerns on animal welfare groups regarding mulesing procedures.

That this forum fully supports the AWI / Taskforce planned phase out of mulesing by 2010 decision.

That this forum believes that engagement with all interested parties in the mulesing debate is essential.

That this forum supports the immediate trial of mulesing/ pain relief methods, and the allocation of funding to facilitate this as part of the 2010 mulesing phase out.

Chairman of The Australian Wool Growers Association Mr Chick Olsson said this is the first good news for the wool industry in many months.

“At last there is light at the end of the tunnel, sensible dialogue and a fresh approach will ultimately bring about a positive win - win situation for woolgrowers, for the sheep and animal husbandry practices, and importantly for consumer perceptions.”

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