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New York Delegation achieves a start to the end of wool industry boycotts

The recent delegation headed by the Australian Wool Growers Association to New York, meeting with the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA, has seen a significant step forward in bringing about a compromise to the debilitating boycotts on Australian Wool. AWGA Vice Chairman, Martin Oppenheimer, believes that this delegation has achieved much for the benefit of the industry.

"To complete two very long days of meetings in an atmosphere of mutual openness is a very encouraging progression" says Mr Oppenheimer.

"The fact that the door remains firmly open is an important breakthrough in seeking to bring about a positive solution to the wool industry's significant problem of image". says Mr Oppenheimer.

Obviously there are still some significant issues to be addressed and there will need to be a full debriefing on the delegation's return.

These include matters that will need to be raised and discussed with the National Farmers Federation and the Wool Taskforce, matters which are confidential at this stage. The delegation will seek meetings with these organisations as soon as practical to discuss the issues further.

Overall, AWGA is very positive about the outcome.

"This was never going to be an easy issue to resolve, and to have open dialogue with an invitation to continue with this approach is very encouraging". says Mr Oppenheimer.

Congratulations must go to Chick Olsson, Chairman of AWGA and all his team, for their efforts to advance sheep welfare and the wool industry.

"We have dismissed some myths here; you can meet with them, you can talk to them. But it's more difficult to find common ground when we are suing them" concludes Mr Oppenheimer.

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