



30 June 2005

## AWGA meets with wool taskforce and AWI.

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Today, Thursday, the recent delegation that met with PETA in New York briefed the wool taskforce and AWI of all outcomes of the USA visit.

Dr Meredith Bayfield had just arrived earlier in the morning directly from New York, and presented her views on the real possibilities on moving forward together with retailers, animal welfare groups and woolgrowers on trying to solve the mulesing boycott.

Although exhausted, the delegation had an extremely positive meeting with the Taskforce and AWI. The meeting provided the opportunity to explain many aspects of the PETA meeting and potential and very real outcomes.

Dr Norm Blackman, immediate past president of the Australian Veterinary Association, briefed all attendees about the complete and interesting dialogue that came from the 2 day marathon meeting in New York.

He felt that many positive steps have been taken in trying to bring all parties to the table. Chick Olsson, AWGA Chairman, felt that this was a meeting that had to happen, and that industry now has a real opportunity to move forward on starting the process to solve the current mulesing boycott.

He congratulated NFF, in particular Peter Corish, AWI, and the Taskforce, for their quick response in organising such an important meeting at such short notice.

“There is still a long way to go, but a new door has opened, and we can only hope that all the parties are encouraged to take that first brave step of negotiation,” stated Chick Olsson. “Obviously these industry bodies now must consult with their membership on the issues raised and this will take at least a day or two” says Mr Olsson.

“I sincerely hope that common sense and reason prevails on all sides. The international market is closely watching every step we make, and a progression to a solution is important.”

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