



24 August 2008

Apology

On 4 March 2008 a press release written by Martin Oppenheimer, the Chairman of the Australian Wool Growers Association Ltd, was published on this website about Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI's) then Chairman, Mr Ian McLachlan AO. Certain statements made in that press release were subsequently repeated by Martin Oppenheimer, during an interview with Catherine Clifford which was broadcast via radio on ABC South Western Victoria during the Vic Country Hour program with Sally Price on 4 March 2008.

Mr Oppenheimer wishes to clarify and correct certain statements and suggestions in the press release and radio interview.

Mr Oppenheimer acknowledges that Mr McLachlan has no financial interest in the mulesing clip technology and that he and the other inventor of the clips assigned all of their rights in relation to the clips to AWI in 2005 without seeking or receiving any payment or consideration.

Mr Oppenheimer accordingly withdraws and acknowledges as incorrect any suggestion in the press release that Mr McLachlan had a financial interest in the mulesing clips resulting in a conflict of interest and causing AWI to fight pain relief or to fail to support pain relief in breach of a commitment to US retailers. Mr Oppenheimer also withdraws any suggestion that Mr McLachlan has acted improperly by participating in the decision by AWI to allocate funding towards mulesing clips.

Mr Oppenheimer acknowledges that Mr McLachlan supports a range of possible long-term solutions designed to eliminate the need for mulesing altogether, and supports the use of pain relief as an interim solution to the issue of mulesing in the meantime.

Mr Oppenheimer apologises to Mr McLachlan and wishes Mr McLachlan well for his retirement after many years of service to Australian agriculture and the wool industry.

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