



29 September 2009

Woolgrowers reject Keniry “anti-marketing” wool tax plan

The Australian Woolgrowers Association (AWGA) is warning woolgrowers to reject the call by Sheep CRC Chairman Dr John Keniry to bring in a new Wool Tax.

Keniry has called for a zero vote at the current Woolpoll to end Research and Marketing funding for the grower owned and controlled Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), to be replaced by a new Woolltax by July 2010.

Details of any new organisation or legislation are unknown, although Keniry has stated that the new Wool Tax would fund only research. Keniry wants to replace the open democratic Director election system at AWI with a selection system that may be open to political interference.

AWGA Chairman Martin Oppenheimer says woolgrowers should reject the attempt by members of the old McLachlan political group to regain industry Leadership and stifle marketing of Australian wool.

“We have had enough of industry re-structures. We don’t want a new Tax.”

“Woolgrowers took control of their industry and wanted a better balance between Research and Marketing. It’s time to support our industry, not destroy it.”

“Our logical future includes telling consumers about wool’s special features; Natural, Renewable and Sustainable. Our environmental credentials are amazing and we need

both marketing and research working for us.”

John Keniry was selected by Ian McLachlan and appointed as an AWI Director in early 2008 but failed to win grower support in November 2008. As Chairman of the Woolpoll committee in 2006 Keniry backed a 2% levy.

“Why didn’t he raise any structural issues regarding AWI when he was Chairman of the Woolpoll committee in 2003 or 2006? Why didn’t he raise any of these issues after his appointment to the AWI Board last year?”

AWGA is recommending growers vote 2% at WoolPoll 2009.

AWGA supports the current AWI Board structure, democratic election system and growers’ right to determine the level of wool levy they pay.

“If Woolgrowers vote zero at WoolPoll there will be no AWI Research, or Marketing of Australian wool, and wool research funds for the Sheep CRC would end.”

Martin Oppenheimer
Chairman AWGA



AWGA - News Update

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