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Industry restructures – cause or solution to industry failure?

The Australian Wool Growers Association (AWGA) rejects the call for more Government interference and Industry restructure.

AWGA Chairman Martin Oppenheimer says that New South Wales Senator Fierravanti- Wells's recent call for yet another Government review into the Australian wool Industry is not supported by woolgrowers and may cause industry failure.

The timing of the Senator's negative attack on the Australian Wool Industry is not helpful as voting for WoolPoll 2009 closes at 5pm on Friday 6 November.

“If these were real issues supported by growers surely they would have been nominated by the independent WoolPoll Committee for inclusion in WoolPoll voting papers which go out to all 50,000 wool levy payers”

“Fortunately woolgrowers are now in charge of their Industry and the overwhelming grower vote at the Australian Wool Innovation Director's election in 2008 stands. Growers wanted positive change and that is what they are getting.”

“Growers have had a gutful of interference by people who are not reliant on wool for their income. We need people with a vested interest in wool. The skills set and experience on the AWI Board are outstanding.”

Since 1936 the Australian Wool Industry has had 23 Government legislated and woolgrower funded research, marketing and testing organisations averaging 3.2 years per organisation.

During the last eighteen years, since 1991, we have had 13 wool organisations averaging 1.4 yrs per organisation.

“Anyone who thinks that yet another wool organisation will solve all our problems is misguided.”

“We need to work as a united industry with what we have and have sustainable improvement. It's time to support our industry, not destroy it.”

AWGA supports the current AWI Board structure, democratic election system and growers' right to determine the level of wool levy they pay. AWGA is recommending growers vote 2% at WoolPoll 2009.



AWGA - News Update

Australian Wool Industry Bodies, Committees & Acts

Industry Restructures - the cause or solution to Industry failure?

1	1936	Australian Wool Board
	1941	The Central Wool Committee (CWC)
2	1944	Wool Research Trust Fund (Levy funded)
	1945	UK Dominion Wool Disposals Ltd
3		Australian Wool Realisation Commission (AWRC)
		Wool Consultative Council
4	1953	Australian Wool Bureau
5	1957	Australian Wool Testing Authority
6	1963	Australian Wool Board
7	1968	Australian Wool Marketing Corporation Pty Ltd
8	1970	Australian Wool Commission
	1972	The Wool Industry Act 1972
9	1973	Australian Wool Corporation
10	1982	AWTA Ltd
	1987	Wool Marketing Act 1987
	1990	Flock Reduction Scheme, National Marketing Quotas
	1991	Australian Wool Corporation split into;
11		- Australian Wool Realisation Commission (AWRC)
12		- Australian Wool Corporation (AWC)
13		- Wool Research & Development Corporation (WRDC)
14	1993	Wool International (WI) replaces AWRC
15		Australian Wool Research & Promotion Organisation (AWRAP)
		replaces WRDC
		Wool Processing Taskforce
16	1994	AWRAP & International Wool Secretariat (IWS) merge
17		Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX)
18	1997	The Woolmark Company Pty Ltd * (TWC) established under AWRAP
	1998	Commonwealth Gov. announces to privatise WI
		Interim Advisory Board
19	1999	Woolstock replaces WI
		Wool Taskforce Report
20	2001	Australian Wool Services (AWS)
21		- Australian Wool Innovation Pty Ltd (AWI)
22		- The Woolmark Company Pty Ltd
	2002	AWI separates from AWS
23	2007	AWI acquires The Woolmark Co from AWS

Since 1936 (73 years) we have had 23 wool organisations averaging 3.2 yrs /organisation.

Since 1991 (18 years) we have had 13 wool organisations averaging 1.4 yrs /organisation.

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<http://australianwoolgrowers.com.au/>