



8 April 2011

Olsson clears the air

AUSTRALIAN Wool Innovation wants the world to know that one of its directors, Chick Olsson, has a clean integrity record.

AWI, in a strange press release this week, said it wanted to publicise the fact its board in December 2008 rescinded a previous resolution censuring Mr Olsson.

The issue arose during a turbulent election time for the AWI board in 2008.

The board, which was then chaired by Brian van Rooyen in October 2008, prior to the election, censured Mr Olsson over a claim that he could influence a Senate Estimates hearing regarding allegations of "leaking" and the breaking of board confidentiality by some board members.

Details of the allegations and the relevant board minutes were subsequently tabled at the Senate hearing.

While Mr van Rooyen didn't name anybody at the hearing, the documents indicated Mr Olsson and, to a lesser extent, Wal Merriman as the two directors in the gun.

At the time, Mr Olsson said he was disappointed with the tabling of AWI documents.

"Those documents are confidential and they should not have been released," Mr Olsson said

Following the election of several new members and the appointment of Mr Merriman as its chairman, the board had the numbers to rescind the censure in December, which it did.

This week, AWI said the rescission motion was not publicised and, because details of the earlier motion were still available online, it wanted the matter corrected.

Despite the view of the previous board, Mr Merriman said the conduct of Mr Olsson had been "legitimately beyond reproach and he has performed his duties in accordance with the Corporations Act at all times and always in the best interests of Australian woolgrowers".

Mr Olsson, who is believed to be considering seeking preselection for parliament, didn't return calls from The Weekly Times.

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