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National Wool Declaration (2010 Review)

Main points Re NWD Review recommendations;

- **The NWD should be a voluntary declaration for NM, CM or PR wools, (& possibly clips), chemical & dark/medulated fibre risk, rather than a "mulesing declaration".**
- **The NWD should help protect the international reputation of the Australian wool industry and encourage the sale of all classifications of Australian wool.**
- **The NWD should assist wool buyers source suitable wools for their requirements ie NM buyers need to know if sheep have been Non-Mulesed but do not need to know if they have been Mulesed.**
- **A majority of Australian woolgrowers rely on mulesing to protect their sheep from flystrike. Genetic change is happening but will not protect all sheep for several sheep generations.**
- **The NWD should not denigrate any Australian wool & should help educate buyers that "mulesing" is an important welfare procedure that is undertaken to prevent flystrike.**
- **The "mob mulesed" status should be removed and would help remove the concerns felt by many woolgrowers of potential interest from vexacious animal rights groups. It may also reduce administration and costs for any quality assurance or integrity program.**



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Recommendation 1:

Delete "Mulesing status".

The wording should instead be "Flystrike prevention status".

Recommendation 2:

Delete "Has the practice of mulesing ceased on this property – Yes / No"

The wording should instead be "Tick box if Owner/Manager has ceased the practice of mulesing on this property".

Recommendation 3:

Delete "Mob Muled" classification. There is no need to attempt to force people to identify that they are mulesing to protect their sheep from flystrike. The wording should instead be that mobs are declared only if they are NM or CM or PR, everything else stays "undeclared". Clips could be declared here in a similar way if necessary.

Recommendation 4:

The definition of mulesing must be changed to "The surgical removal of skin from the breech and tail of a sheep to prevent flystrike"

Recommendation 5:

The NWD must remain voluntary & should state clearly that it is voluntary document.

Recommendation 6:

The NWD should state clearly that any random audit is user pays (or if it is not user pays, who covers the cost of the integrity program?).

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