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WAFF recommends half the tax levy AWI wants

By Belinda Varischetti

The WA Farmers Federation wool council wants to send a message to Australian Wool Innovation and is recommending a 1 per cent wool tax for Woolpoll 2012.

The Pastoralists and Graziers Association is also recommending WA wool growers vote for no more than the one per cent levy option.

Australian Wool Innovation conducts the Woolpoll every three years and it gives farmers the chance to set the rate of wool levy to be spent on industry marketing and research and development over the next three years.

The current levy is set at 2 per cent and that's the rate of levy AWI would like to maintain.

Ed Rogister, the wool section president with the WA Farmers Federation, says there are a number of reasons why the council is recommending half the tax levy AWI is after.

"AWI has a large fund in reserve, about \$100 million, of which they only require about \$37 million to wind the company up if they got a zero vote.

"We believe that 1 per cent will be a clear message to AWI regarding our position in Western Australia from our membership's point of view."

Mr Rogister acknowledges AWI is spending the money well in some areas and he named the Comfort Metre and Beyond the Bale, among others, as innovations that have been successful.

Although, Mr Rogister says AWI's promotional spending is a worry.

"The marketing side of things with AWI are a bit flourey in our opinion.

"We can't quantify, in our minds, our best bang for our buck."

Mr Rogister urges the 7,000 wool growers in WA to exercise their position and vote for Woolpoll 2012, voting closes 5pm on Friday November 2

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/wa/content/2012/10/s3611958.htm>