



## Australian Wool Growers Ltd

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1 November 2012

To The Hon Senator Joe Ludwig

Federal Minister for Agriculture and DAFF.

Dear Minister,

**Regarding 2012 WoolPoll vote and result.**

The Australian Wool Growers Association would like to draw your attention to recent Rural Press reports, as stated by the AWI Chairman of a record low voter turnout for the WoolPoll levy vote process. (See attached press article).

We also respectfully draw your attention to an early poll of growers that indicates a possible shift of the wool industry lowering the levy, maybe even preferring a zero vote. Although a zero vote is unlikely, it seems that the mood of the wool industry owing to low wool prices, maybe in the mood for change. Also many growers are frustrated by AWI's unilateral decision to change the funding mix of Research versus Marketing and not fund further research & commercialisation of the popular sheep genomics programs, while AWI reserves of \$103 million were held at 30 June 2012.

Be that as it may, we are asking that the WoolPoll process is made fully transparent in all stages, with all voting numbers, and that if there is to be a reduction in the levy or a zero vote, that all parts of the wool industry are consulted prior to any such decision, which would ultimately rest with your good self.

Of particular interest would be the situation if 50 % of the required voting register was not reached. That is could a minority of growers impose a levy on the majority? We are sure that you would treat such an issue with openness and public discussion before any such levy was reimposed on the wool industry.

We would be available at any time to be part of such discussions should any such issue arise during the Wool Poll process.

Yours truly,

Shane Edwards  
Chairman AWGA

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### **Fears for low WoolPoll voter turnout**

BY DEANNA LUSH

26 Oct, 2012 04:00 AM

WITH less than a week to go in WoolPoll 2012 voting, Australian Wool Innovation chairman Wal Merriman says he is a bit worried about apathy in the ranks of the nations woolgrowers.

Mr Merriman said AWI was proud of the industrys previous participation rates in the triennial wool levy vote. But because wool prices had been at higher levels in the past two years and there had been fewer issues in the industry, perhaps growers had not yet voted in the six-week poll