

14-08-2013

Wool grower says mulesing is 'a no-go area'- ABC Rural **(Australian Broadcasting Corporation)**



The Australian Wool Exchange is calling for feedback from the industry of how the National Wool Declaration might be improved

A Western Australian wool producer says the mulesing status component of the National Wool Declaration (NWD) isn't necessary.

The Australian Wool Exchange is calling for feedback from the industry on how the NWD might be improved.

In 2008 the NWD form was brought in by the Australian Wool Exchange to let buyers know, among other things, if their wool has come from mulesed or unmulesed sheep.

It's been two years since the last review so with the benefit of more experience, the industry is being asked to make suggestions of ways both the NWD and its Integrity Program could better work.

Kojonup sheep producer Glenn Simcock is generally happy with the system besides the mulesing criteria.

"It's what suits the wool market and I think there are more issues at play than whether a sheep is mulesed or not."

"The mulesing status component with the NWDs, I don't think that's necessary.



AWGA - News Update

"The mulesing issue is a no-go area as far as we're concerned, there's no premium in the market and it's just part of good management running merino sheep in a high rainfall area."

He adds that most growers will conform to the NWD provided it's kept simple.

"It's no big deal, it's a few boxes to tick and it's just part of the system."

The National Wool Declaration is voluntary and Mr Simcock believes it should stay that way.

"This is an economic advantage and if you want to put that information in then it's a personal choice and if you believe that you can extract more from the market place by doing that well that's an individual's choice."

Submissions need to be lodged with the Australian Wool Exchange by Friday 27th September 2013.

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-13/wool-grower-says-mulesing-shouldnt-be-part-of-nwd/4884322>