



MEDIA RELEASE June 2013

Changes made to NVD subsidy to support investment in market access

Monday, 17 June, 2013

From July 1 sheep producers will be required to pay for National Vendor Declaration (NVD) books they must use for livestock transactions.

For the past nine years, sheep NVDs have been available to producers free of charge with costs subsidised by the Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) from National Residue Survey (NRS) levies.

The cost of funding these books has been about \$700,000 per year. NRS expenditure now exceeds income, with reserve funds being used to meet the difference. These reserves will be quickly exhausted unless changes are made. SCA has decided to remove the subsidy for NVD books to allow current NRS residue monitoring programs to continue. These essential monitoring activities underpin market access for Australian sheepmeat in domestic and international markets.

The NRS is part of the Government and industry strategy to minimise chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian food products and promote market access.

“Maintaining market access is paramount to the on-going success of Australia’s \$3.5 billion sheep industry. To this end, SCA directs investment to the highest priority activities,” said Ian McColl, President, SCA.

“NRS residue monitoring program confirms Australia’s status as a producer of clean food and facilitates access to key export markets. NRS programs provide confirmation of good agricultural practices, help to identify potential residue problems, and indicate where follow-up action is needed.”

Producers will now pay \$35 per NVD book of 20 forms. They will also have the option to use the cheaper electronic NVD forms, currently \$1 each.

Mr McColl said producers can continue to use their current NVD books. However, if they have not received a new book for a number of years they should consider obtaining the latest version in order to provide the most up to date information.

Mr McColl said NVDs underpin the Livestock Production Assurance program,



Australia's red meat food safety guarantee to domestic and international customers.

“Failing to fulfil the obligations of accreditation poses a risk to your business, the Australian livestock industry and its international reputation. LPA accreditation ensures that livestock attract the most competition in the marketplace”.

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