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Oppenheimer nominates for AWI board

VOCAL supporter of genetics and genomics in the Merino industry, Martin Oppenheimer will stand for the Australian Wool Innovation board.

Mr Oppenheimer announced via Twitter today he would be standing for a director position on the wool board.

Mr Oppenheimer has previously been critical of AWI's decision to cut funding to the Information Nucleus Flock and their recent cut to the Bred Well Fed Well workshops.

But, when Mr Oppenheimer spoke to Weekly Times Now today, he said he was nominating for a position because he had been "getting a lot of calls from concerned growers about the direction of the board, particularly in the genetics area".

"I am putting myself up in response to what wool growers have been asking," he said.

Mr Oppenheimer believed there would be "quite a few" others putting their names up and it would be good for wool growers to have a choice.

Currently in the process of collecting the required 100 signatures from shareholders, Mr Oppenheimer was hoping to have his nomination complete by next week, well before the closing date of September 23.

"If we are going to have a compulsory levy, it has to be spent effectively to provide modern tools for sheep breeders to not only survive but prosper."

"AWI shouldn't be about pushing certain breeding methodology it is about promoting the Australian wool industry."

Running the Petali Poll Merino and White Suffolk studs at Walcha in NSW, Mr Oppenheimer said he had the "passion and time" to put into the board if elected.



Driven: Martin Oppenheimer will stand for the Australian Wool Innovation board this year.

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2013/09/04/581953_wool.html