

MEDIA RELEASE

1 December 2016

WoolProducers Australia stands by a 15% backpacker tax

WoolProducers Australia stands by its support for a 15% backpacker tax. Australia's wool growers believe that the 15% rate is fair, internationally competitive and recognises the unique nature of seasonal work. We don't believe that backpackers should pay less tax than those on the Seasonal Worker Program.

The outcome of the backpacker tax directly impacts on farmer livelihoods and their ability to operate their businesses.

"Senators need to stop thinking about their own political games, pass the legislation and move on. It's not about them - it is about Australian business wanting to get on and produce things" said Senior Vice President Ed Storey.

"Like many agricultural industries, backpacker labour is playing an increasingly important role in Australia's wool industry, in both on-farm and wool harvesting sectors, with many wool growers and shearing contractors relying on backpackers to fill the employment shortfall in this area" Storey said

The 32.5 per cent default rate which will come into effect on 1 January 2017 is not internationally competitive and is a completely unacceptable outcome.

WoolProducers Australia commends the National Farmers' Federation in leading the public campaign on the backpacker tax.

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