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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### Wool Industry needs leadership evolution.

The AWGA is one of the nation's most influential voices in wool politics, having been involved in changing 3 boards and chairmen over the life of AWI's existence.

Recently, press and politics has seen many questions raised about AWI's corporate governance issues, spectres that keep raising their heads during excellent wool prices and strong confidence within the wool community.

In this regard, we believe Wally Merriman must be congratulated for a record 9 years as chair, fighting hard in protecting the rights of growers to continue breech surgery as well ensuring ongoing voting democracy. He has served woolgrowers faithfully and deserves our thanks.

As our industry restabilises, it's appropriate to now consider the future and potential new leadership possibilities to take the industry to an even stronger place. In this regard, the AWGA would like to encourage the AWI board to look for new leadership as a matter of industry priority, which must happen sooner rather than later to instill confidence in AWI from the wider community.

AWGA strongly supports Dr Meredith Sheil as the next Chairperson to lead the industry to a stronger scientific and marketing platform of better delivery of levy investment outcomes. Her experience in commercial product delivery and a strong scientific background, combined with the communities desire for increased gender equality on public boards makes her the ideal candidate for the next Chairpersons role. We need to provide confidence for the next generation to re - engage in growing wool, which will begin the vital task of increasing merino numbers in Australia once more.

AWGA Chairman

Robert McBride

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