

Responsible Wool Standard Stakeholder Meeting

Monday, November 20th, 2017

Agenda:

1. News
2. Update on activities
3. Update on planned activities
4. RWS Roundtable

Chatham House Rules
Anti-Trust Declaration

1. News

- National recognition of the RWS by Federación Lanera de Argentina & Prolana
 - RWS to be used as the basis for outreach and training
- Australian news with regard to mulesling

[No action from Agriculture Minister Joyce on AWI Senate Estimates admissions](#) - 25 October 2017
MINISTER for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce has indicated he will take no action over Australian Wool Innovation chairman Wal Merriman's admissions in Senate Estimates of breaching AWI's Code of Conduct and damaging the body's standing.

[Local critics turn up heat on AWI and Wal Merriman](#) – 25 October 2017
Penshurst merino super fine producer Colin Agar reckons more needs to change at Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) than replacing its embattled chairman Wal Merriman.

[Senate Estimates reveals financial benefit to Wool Innovation Directors](#) – 24 Oct, 2017
“The marketing and manufacturing rights of Tri-Solfen have been sold to Bayer. However, Dr Sheil and Mr Olsson have not disclosed if they still receive a financial interest, such as royalties from the development of the drug”

[Wool leaders face Senate Estimates grilling amid industry claims of 'toxic culture'](#) – 24 Oct, 2017
A bitter divide between traditional and progressive farmers has led to allegations that AWI — a grower and taxpayer-funded marketing and research body — is not spending enough money to help farmers phase out mulesing.

[Wool boss express posts apology letter ahead of Senate grilling](#) – 23 Oct, 2017
Genetics can help farmers stop mulesing, the controversial practice of cutting skin from a lamb's buttocks to prevent flies attacking.

[AWI director candidate Cocking signals willingness to lead if elected](#) - 20 October 2017
AUSTRALIAN Wool Innovation director Paul Cocking has indicated his willingness to potentially lead the grower levy-funded body out of its current governance and industry issues.

2. Updates on Activities

- Update on adoption slide
- Brand commitments

- Certified sites listing
- Accreditation
 - AUS-MEAT Limited is currently in the process of becoming a licensed RWS CB
- TE conference in Washington
 - Over 500 registrants from over 300 companies
 - 2 RWS sessions: Discussion Forum & Working Session
 - Discussion Forum outcomes of challenges and opportunities:
 - Scale and volume
 - Certification process
 - Demand signal & communication
 - Commitments & investments
 - Timing
 - Data & Traceability
 - Cost & fair pricing
 - Risk management
 - Working Session solutions:
 - Broaden the demand base
 - Brands need to set ambitious goals...
 - ...and send demand signals
 - Invest in relationships
 - A platform or forum to discuss how to accelerate RWS wool in the marketplace is needed
 - Factor in that additional time is required for sourcing RWS
 - Involve designers

3. Updates on Planned Activities

- Supply chain certification webinar
 - Webinar focused on supply chain certification
 - Thursday, Dec. 7th – 3 PM GMT | 10 AM EST
- RWS CB Meeting
 - 13th/14th December 2017
 - Submit issues for discussion to responsiblewool@textileexchange.org
- Australia Farm Webinar
 - Webinar for wool growers & brokers
 - Sunday, Dec. 3rd 2017 – 8 PM EST / Monday Dec. 4th 2017 – 12 PM AEDT
- Australia Brand Symposium & Farm Visit
 - Date to be announced shortly – full day event
 - Contact valentina@textileexchange.org for further information
- Greenroom Voice ISPO
 - GRV showcase with a special focus on wool (Outdoor Hall A4)
 - RWS will be presenting on the standard
 - **Exhibition opportunity** – set best practice examples and inspire your audience!
- Future Fabrics London
 - January 24-25th
 - RWS seminar at the exhibition
 - **Exhibition opportunity** – RWS-certified fabric suppliers contact us if interested!

- Event planning for 2018
 - Outdoor Retailer (summer and winter)
 - ISPO and Outdoor
 - SpinExpo?
 - Textile Exchange Textile Sustainability Conference in Milan, October 2018
 - Speak for the RWS!
 - As opportunities arise, help us present on the RWS; TE will supply materials

4. RWS Roundtable

The primary mission of the Roundtable will be to drive the successful use of the RWS.

- A platform to learn and understand the challenges and opportunities in the wool industry
- A forum to agree on priority issues and desired solutions, with the possibility of taking actions
- Provides a common voice that represents the interests of the users of the RWS
- A structure for interacting with other organizations and government bodies

RWS Roundtable Charter

- Sets roles and responsibilities for Textile Exchange and Roundtable Members
- Sets codes of conducts for participants
- It will be mandatory for all Roundtable members to sign the charter in order to participate

- Our first task group can be to look at the charter. We have a final draft ready, but would like to get input from a few interested parties before finalizing it.
 - Please contact hanna@textileexchange.org if you are interested in reviewing it. It should take a minimal amount of time.

- The roundtable is intended to be a platform for engagement, but will never make any changes to the standard or administration of the standard.
- The roundtable can discuss issues within the standard that need to be reviewed.

Next Steps

- Roundtable for sharing best practices and identifying issues
- Some issues can be immediately addressed through e.g. auditor guidance and derogation process
- Other issues will feed into the revision of the standard
- Homework:
 - Tell us if you want to be a member of the roundtable
 - Give us feedback on priority issues to address

Side note: RWS revision process will likely begin in late 2018 or early 2019

Meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/wMsIY-jNqIQ>