

8 October, 2018

Dear Editor

WoolProducers Australia (WPA) is urging all eligible woolgrowers to cast their vote for the 2018 WoolPoll.

Voting closes on 2 November and this is your chance to provide direction to your company, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

This WoolPoll, WPA is recommending that woolgrowers vote for 1.5%. The Board of WPA seriously considered all factors when determining this position, including the forecast downturn in production due to dry conditions.

According to the WoolPoll Voter Information Memorandum (VIM), 1.5% offers projected annual income of between \$85.8M - \$88M per year for the next three years, which when considered in the context of the last three financial years AWI expending between \$70 - \$88M, is ample money for current business to be continued as well as invest in relevant new areas.

It is important to note that a 1.5% levy is actually supporting a substantial increase in the amount AWI has to spend, even under a scenario where production volumes incur a significant shock. 1.5% is a viable option for future investment.

By voting 2% you are voting for an annual expenditure of \$110M for the next three years, which represents a staggering increase of over 40% on the average of the past 3 years. WPA believes this is too much money to spend and we cannot stand for wastage of growers' money.

The VIM states that the unaudited reserves of the AWI are \$115M, which given the strong finish in the EMI of the last financial year, could be even higher.

The reality is that AWI has never had so much money given the current healthy state of the reserves and the continued strong prices.

Whilst the concerns of productions are valid, we believe that one of the best ways to contribute to increasing production is to leave that extra half a percent in woolgrowers' pockets by voting 1.5%.

WPA would also like to remind growers that voting in WoolPoll is optional preferential, so to really make your voice heard WPA recommends putting your preferences to more than one option.

Ultimately it is up to growers to decide the amount that they wish to contribute to research, development and marketing in their industry and we again urge all growers to make their vote count.

Richard Halliday  
President, WoolProducers Australia