Mark Grave

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Wool Exchange Limited

Email: mgrave@awex.com.au

PO Box 651, North Ryde, NSW 1670

19th January, 2020

Dear Mark,

The below mentioned individual Woolgrower businesses would like to make a submission to AWEX in regards of the proposed changes to the NWD in respect of the NM classification. There are several points that need to be considered here but most importantly the integrity of the Australian Wool Industry as seen by our global customers’ needs to be paramount.

1. There are a percentage of growers throughout Australia with guidance many years ago who decided to genetically breed a Merino that did not need mulesing. These growers have identified the changing consumer trends around the world and want to produce an ethical product that takes advantage of so many of wools other attributes. By adding other breech modification techniques into a NM classification (NM2) we believe this complicates a simple declaration which will only be applicable in Australia. At the moment growers in Australia who do not mules have a premium advantage, and this should be promoted not complicated.
2. We understand that these new breech modifications do not fit into the strict definition of mulesing however why risk an established category which is already recognized all over the world. Why not use a new classification such as BM (Breech Modification) rather than risk an established price advantage for those that have already transitioned and risk confusion from the world’s consumers?
3. For too long the Australian industry has been mired by self-interest and this change to the NWD continues this tradition. Surely it is time to show some leadership and ensure the longevity of the Australian Wool Industry by promoting what is required by our customers all over the world, AWEX risks becoming irrelevant to all NM growers and the processors and brands who have made the decision not use mulesed wool and push them at their own cost into 3rd party certification programs such as RWS, Nativa and ZQ.

Kind Regards

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| Mark and Vicki Murphy |  |  |
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