

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**29 April 2020**

### **Extension a focus for sheep industries' new national biosecurity strategy**

The Australian sheep and wool industries are set to receive greater support in implementing proactive biosecurity measures, through the appointment of a specialist extension resource at Animal Health Australia (AHA), based in South Australia.

Establishing the role, which has been filled by Dr Emily Buddle, is an important early step in delivering against the National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy 2019-2024 (NSIBS), which was developed by Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) and WoolProducers Australia (WPA).

The NSIBS forms a commitment by the two national industry bodies to ensuring the sheep industry remains stable and secure into the future, by encouraging sheepmeat and wool growers to take ownership of their own on-farm biosecurity measures and recognise the important role they play.

To assist producers in implementing or improving their biosecurity plan, AHA has engaged Dr Buddle to work with producer groups and individuals across South Australia.

Dr Buddle has an extensive range of experience on the ground in both sheepmeat and wool enterprises, as well as an impressive academic background covering a broad range of topics including agricultural science, community understandings of science and agriculture, and how social media is used to communicate about the livestock industry.

While Dr Buddle will be based in South Australia and commencing the roll-out of extension resources for producers in that state, AHA hopes to expand the biosecurity team with resources in other states in the near future.

"The NSIBS, by definition, is a national strategy which emphasises the need for a consistent approach to biosecurity policy, planning and implementation across Australia," said AHA's Executive Manager Biosecurity and Product Integrity, Dr Simon Humphrys.

"We look forward to working with SPA and WPA to see the NSIBS delivering for sheepmeat and wool producers nationwide."

Dr Buddle will be working closely with Livestock SA, who welcomed the proactive moves taken by SPA and WPA in creating and implementing the NSIBS, and who are eager to be part of the rollout of the program in South Australia.

"Biosecurity is everybody's business and the NSIBS provides a great framework for a coordinated approach in South Australia," said Livestock SA CEO Andrew Curtis.

"We are pleased to see the leadership shown by SPA and WPA in driving continuous improvement in biosecurity practices and fostering a culture of accountability throughout the industry and the supply chain."

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**Media enquiries:** Ryan Diessel, Communications Coordinator  
02 6203 3929 | [rdiessel@animalhealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:rdiessel@animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

#### **About Animal Health Australia**

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

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### **About Livestock SA**

Livestock SA is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2013 to represent South Australian beef cattle, sheep and goat producers on all livestock-related issues. With over 3500 members, Livestock SA works to facilitate industry development and inform government, businesses, and the wider community on the contribution of livestock producers to the food and fibre industries.

### **About Sheep Producers Australia**

Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) is the voice on issues that affect Australian sheep production businesses. As the successor entity to Sheepmeat Council of Australia which formed in 1978, SPA is the peak industry organisation for sheep and lamb producers. SPA works daily to enhance the industry's productivity, profitability and sustainability by representing all producers to industry decision-makers and stakeholders. This is achieved through SPA's policy committees and the SPA board and working with members, service providers, government and many other partners.

SPA is the custodian of the Sheep Industry Strategic Plan (SISP), the blueprint for the industry's future. This is delivered through consultation with industry and government to ensure levy investment is clearly directed and producers' best interests are met through the provision of RD&E, services, programs and marketing.

### **About WoolProducers' Australia**

WPA plays a critical role in working closely with companies and entities funded by woolgrower funds including compulsory levies or fees for service.

Its mission is to develop constructive and profitable outcomes for woolgrowers nationally.

The agency is responsible for appointing a director to each of the Australian Wool Exchange and the Australia Wool Testing Authority, promoting good corporate governance and ensuring that the interests of growers are met.

WPA maintains a working relationship with Australian Wool Innovation as the voice of woolgrower shareholders. It aims to contribute to AWI's programs for the benefit of growers, promoting responsible use of levy funds and ensuring good corporate governance.

WPA is the sole wool industry member of Animal Health Australia, and as such, carries a significant responsibility for decision making on behalf of the industry in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak.

As the only wool grower organisation with membership of the National Farmers' Federation, WoolProducers is responsible for providing key policy advice on behalf of our members, and other wool growers, to Australia's peak farm body.

WoolProducers also works closely with the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on key issues such as animal health and welfare, biosecurity, pest management control, natural resource management, drought preparedness, emergency animal disease outbreak preparedness and industry development, including research and trade.