



Secretariat C/- Bluesee | PO Box 668, Denmark 6333 Western Australia | [esther@bluesee.com.au](mailto:esther@bluesee.com.au)

Aug 1, 2016

## Media Release

### SILC TRANSITIONS TO SHEEP ALLIANCE

THE WA sheep industry formalised its plans to take a whole-of-supply-chain approach to arresting the decline in the WA sheep population, by voting to form the Sheep Alliance of WA on Friday.

More than 40 industry entities, associations and commercial businesses who service the sheep sector have taken out membership to help activate intervention strategies, in a sign that highlights the level of concern that exists around a likely on-going decline.

The Sheep Industry Leadership Council (SILC) has been working with industry groups since February to restructure the former SILC so that membership is open to all those in the sheep industry and where a skills-based board reports directly to membership.

The transition to the Sheep Alliance of WA formally took when the SILC board adopted a new constitution including name change, membership and accountability structure.

A key part of the restructure process was the declaration of all SILC director positions as vacant and to mount a call for new directors with the ability and influence to respond directly to the organisation's refined sole purpose of addressing the sheep population decline.

An independent selection panel reviewed 16 applications and unanimously recommended to The Alliance members that the following candidates are appointed:

- Craig Heggaton – Interim Chair (Processors/Producer/Veterinarian)
- Richard Coole – producer
- Bindi Murray - producer
- John Edwards – live exporter
- Andrew Ritchie – ag consultant specialising in sheep
- Tim Watts – veterinarian, consultant, sheep producer
- Wayne Pech – producer
- Andrew Lindsay – Livestock Agent
- Prof David Pethick – Sheep researcher

The revised constitution provides for the new directors to nominate and appoint a chair and vice chair for the coming two-year term at its first meeting of directors, which will take place on August 8.

Alliance interim chair and WAMMCO chairman, Craig Heggaton paid tribute to the efforts by the DAFWA economics team to prepare scenario forecasts for WA sheep numbers in a manner that galvanised companies into action.

---



Secretariat C/- Bluesee | PO Box 668, Denmark 6333 Western Australia | [esther@bluesee.com.au](mailto:esther@bluesee.com.au)

“The new directors are listening carefully to the ramifications that live sheep exporters, wool exporters, meat processors and industry service providers will face if sheep numbers fall further within the next 2 years,” Dr Heggaton said.

“We all know there will be no silver bullet available to us in turning this around, but one thing is for certain, we need every member of our sheep supply chain working on a series of agreed strategies. Individually we have little chance of making a difference.”

Dr Heggaton said the new directors would work to progress a strong industry desire to ensure sheep industry research and extension is well executed, relevant and adopted.

“One of our first orders of business as was requested of us at the AGM, is to develop a business case for developing a coordinated suite of sheep research, extension and communication activities.”

..ends..

---