



The Sheepmeat Council of Australia held its Annual General Meeting and General Meeting at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Launceston, Tasmania on 15 and 16 November 2010.

New Councillor, Alexander MacLachlan, South Australian Farmers' Federation, was welcomed to his first meeting replacing Suzie Kidman.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The primary activity at the AGM was the election of office bearers and committee representation. Kate Joseph was re-elected as President and Ian McColl was elected Vice President. David Boyle was re-elected as Treasurer. A range of committee positions, filled on an annual basis, were also decided.

The audited end of year financial report was presented and accepted by Council.

General Meetinga

Major issues discussed included:

President's Report

The President reported on a range of matters including an excellent LambEx Conference in Perth, successful TriLamb meeting in Adelaide, the MLA selection process, appointment of RMAC Chairman and plans for the Secretariat, changes to the OJD program, ILO training and EID workshop run by MLA.

Meat and Livestock Australia

The MLA Chairman and General Manager attended the meeting and discussed recent activity by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on livestock production systems, the forthcoming MLA AGM, Industry Collaborative Agreements (ICAs) and their importance to brand based marketing, the Productivity Commission report into RRDCs, and MLA planning adaptation following the release of the Meat Industry Strategic Plan (MISP) and individual industry strategies (such as the Sheepmeat Industry Strategic Plan).

Following these discussions Michelle Gorman, GM, Industry Systems provided an update on activities around MSA (Sheep) and developments and planned activities with Agrisure. Glen Feist, GM, Marketing then outlined the domestic marketing plan for lamb, including for Australia Day 2011 campaign.

NLIS (Sheep & Goats)

Council discussed the current activities with NLIS (Sheep and Goats). Councillors reinforced the need for all parties to work to ensuring the current visual, mob based system was supported and all efforts made to resource it. Council will also work to review existing policy on the standards required for a system based on RFID. SCA continues to work to provide leadership for industry on the best way forward for the Australian sheepmeat industry. Council expressed concern about the threat of the states not resourcing their share of the visual mob-based.

State Farmer Organisation Motions

NSW Farmers' presented three resolutions to the meeting; on biosecurity issues with saleyards; supporting the extension of the Invasive Animal CRC, and; MLA reporting of

Industry Collaborative Agreements (ICA - marketing grants). Council agreed to further develop the issue of biosecurity and saleyards, discussed the CRC extension in a later agenda item and agreed to work with MLA to review ICA reporting to improve transparency. VFF also put forward a motion on the MLA selection process. It was determined that the motion lay on the table to allow further information to be provided to Council.

Animal Health and Welfare Report

Maria Butler provided an overview of the activities of the last quarter in animal health and welfare including an update on ILO training, the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) Industry Forum, the Qld RSPCA World Farm Animal Symposium and SCA Animal Welfare planning.

Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep

SCA discussed the Sheep Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines development process and Council's previous decision to put their involvement on hold until concerns are addressed. Council was provided with copies of the correspondence received to date and were provided with an update of the initiatives that the sheep and cattle industries are working on to ensure that the Council can re-engage in the process. This included supporting an Australian Animal Welfare Strategy project proposal. The Council requested further information from AHA regarding the development of the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA).

Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD)

Council was provided with an update on the OJD Management program activities. The draft ToR for the OJD Program review was distributed and Councillors and State Farming Organisations have two weeks to provide feedback. Council also supported an OJD R&D proposal.

Animal Health Australia Update

Mike Bond (CEO) Animal Health Australia, addressed the Council on a number of issues including the future of AHA, Strategic and Business Planning, Biosecurity Planning, the FMD Vaccine Network and Sheep Welfare Standards and Guidelines.

Invasive Animals CRC Extension Bid

The CRC Chair and CEO presented to Council on their plans to submit an extension bid and sought Council support for the extension. Council agreed to support the application.

LPA Strategic Planning

Council discussed the upcoming LPA strategic planning workshop and reinforced that the LPA was a food safety program and that any additional QA/audit requirements should be incorporated in mechanisms such as Agrisure. Council also considered that there was an opportunity to use desk audits as a supplement to physical audits.

Communication

The e-newsletter is now a regular feature of SCA communications. The Annual Muster has been well received. Significant media coverage has been achieved on a range of issues and given SCA good exposure.

Future Meetings

Council resolved to hold its August 2011 meeting in Brisbane following an invitation from AgForce. The meeting will be held in conjunction with Ekka in the week of 8-12th. Meeting dates already established for 2011 are 22-23rd February and 2-3rd May, both in Canberra.

Further detail/clarification is available from your SCA Councillor, or the SCA Office, see www.sheepmeatcouncil.com.au