



AUSTRALIAN WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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AWGA welcomes new director

The Australian Wool Growers' Association is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Tom Moxham to its board.

Tom is a third-generation woolgrower and is actively involved in his family's Mullengudgery merino stud at Nyngan which celebrates its centenary in 2023. Tom was a director of the Rural Lands Protection Board from 1997 to 2003 and was on the Lachlan/Bogan Native Vegetation Committee from 1999 to 2003. He is also an experienced lawyer specialising in complex disputes, including in agriculture; and has practised in Australia, Europe and Asia.

"I am proud that growing wool has been part of my family for more than a century and will continue to be for the foreseeable future" says Tom. "Like other growers, we've certainly weathered some industry storms during that period but our passion for producing sustainable wool and belief in its vast potential is what continues to drive us forward."

"I believe that the fibre performance of wool as well as its increasing recognition as a carbon sink and circular economy give wool some of its strongest advantages in the competitive international fibre market. However, the worsening shearer shortage could see the industry simply grind to a halt" says Tom.

"Australia grows the best wool in the world but if we can't harvest it at the right time, the economic and animal welfare implications could be devastating. I don't think there's a single silver bullet solution to this problem either, it's a hugely complex industry-wide issue that needs addressing at all levels of industry governance and multilaterally by government. I look forward to contributing to this critical conversation as a director of AWGA."

"I am also very concerned about the growing fly resistance to agricultural chemicals and progress in developing viable alternative solutions, such as the flystrike vaccine. I certainly welcome the additional funding AWI allocated to flystrike research in 2021, but until the whole industry has reliable access to a yet-to-be-developed solution, all growers should be supported to manage their flock using proven effective methods which deliver the best possible animal welfare outcomes."

AWGA director Charles Chick Olsson says AWGA is pleased to have a grower with Tom's professional expertise join the board. "If we want our industry to prosper, we simply must have multi-talented and well-respected individuals like Tom in governance and advisory roles. His lifetime of wool growing experience, as well as his professional legal career will be an asset to AWGA and to the wool industry".

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Pic supplied.