



Livestock Policy

General Position Statement

The PGA Livestock Committee exists to safeguard the viability of all livestock producers by advocating for equitable services to the livestock industry and practical regulatory outcomes that support sustainable livestock production in Western Australia.

Detailed Policy Positions on Specific Livestock Issues

Peak Industry Councils

As long as State Farm Organisations like the PGA fund these peak councils then they must be automatically represented in any decision-making process.

Cost Recovery of Government Service Provision

In principle the PGA agrees with cost recovery for government services that provide a purely private benefit.

However, government services are inherently a service provided by a monopoly supplier and as such have little incentive to reduce expenditure or increase efficiency and productivity. Services that provide a public good must be paid for by government with no requirement for cost-recovery to be provided by industry.

Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)

The PGA holds the view that statutory authorities such as the RDCs should not conduct generic marketing.

Levies

The PGA has a number of simple positions on levies. This includes no new levies such as the abortive Biosecurity Protection Levy. Levies must be collected on a percentage basis to account for fluctuations in commodity prices. Levy collections must be kept to absolute minimums and not used to support advocacy organisations. Large reserves must not be built up by the over collection of levies.

Weighted Voting

In any poll of livestock producers, voting rights should recognise volume of production with larger producers receiving more voting entitlements.

Industry Funding Schemes (IFS)

Livestock producers are automatically enrolled in Industry Funding Schemes and remain so until such time as they “opt out”. The PGA believes that livestock producers should instead be required to “opt in” to join an IFS.

WoolPoll

The PGA believes the WoolPoll should poll levy payers for the percentage amount of funding that they want allocated to generic marketing, instead of it being set by the Board of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

The PGA continues to support the inclusion of a 0% levy voting choice as this gives levy payers the ability wind up the AWI, should they wish to do so. Polling should be moved from every 3 years to every 5 years and retain the use of the preferential voting system.

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)

The PGA opposes the increase in more LPA modules without convincing justification.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Brands Register

The PGA supports the continued operation of the WA Brands Register as the final arbiter of livestock ownership.

Property Identification Codes (PICs)

The PGA supports the use of one PIC across multiple properties. It also supports livestock owners having more than one PIC if required.

Electronic National Vendor Declarations (eNVDs)

The PGA supports the retention of paper NVDs for those who wish to use them, recognising that when eNVDs become obviously superior they will supersede any paper-based system.

Saleyards

The PGA does not support state government-owned facilities for the exchange of ownership of livestock, preferring a more efficient private model.

Approval of Non-veterinarian Pregnancy Testing and other services

The PGA supports the approval of “authorised persons” to carry out dehorning and spaying of cattle in the pastoral region, and to conduct pregnancy testing. This is necessary as using a veterinarian to perform these services is cost prohibitive and often logistically impractical.

Pain Relief for Mulesing

The PGA supports the use of pain relief to preserve access to mulesing for those livestock owners who require this for optimum animal welfare. Pain relief should be available over the counter and should be developed for use across different animal species.

Access to Firearms

Livestock producers must have privileged access to firearms for the purposes of vermin control and the humane destruction of livestock.

Breeding of Working Dogs

The PGA's hard work between 2020 and 2023 was effective in helping to gain an exemption from compulsory sterilisation of farm working dogs.

Biosecurity – Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs)

The PGA continues to support the prudent collection and allocation of the Declared Pest Rate to local RBGs with matching state government funding. Declared pest species do not respect borders or boundaries. Control of declared pests is a legal obligation of all landholders, and the funding should reflect this with a combination of state government and private funding including native title holders.

Summary

The PGA is committed to working with our members, all stakeholders, and all levels of government to build a livestock policy environment that supports the growth, sustainability, and prosperity of Western Australia's agricultural industry.