



Progress toward profitability
The On-Farm Research Portfolio

Dr Paul Swan

Program Manager Wool Production

The Wool Production Program

Our intent is to deliver a 10 - 20% reduction in cost of producing a kilogram of wool

- More reliably productive grazing systems
- More efficient, healthy, and genetically progressive sheep
- Better synergy between sheep, meat, and cropping activities

109 projects - \$49m invested

\$25m annual budget



Achievements in past 12 months

- \$30m AWI:MLA Molecular Genetics Program launched
- Mulesing alternatives progressed, & human applications started
- Australian Sheep Genetics Database
- Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands (SGSL) launched nationally
- Shearer / Shed-hand Pilot Program initiated
- National Integrated Parasite Management (IPM) Program launched
- Assessment of portfolio predicts \$4.50 benefit per \$1 invested over 20 years (IRR 32%)

Genetics

Our intent is to lay the foundations for the next decades of genetic progress

Genetics is a key to future profitability

\$25m investment strategy developed

Whole-sheep, co-investment focus

Two major strands:

Applied Genetics - \$8m

Molecular Genetics - \$17m



Applied Genetics

Practical tools for progress, impacting in the short-medium term.

Focus on better benchmarks

- Whole of sheep focus
- Market segments
- Address language barriers

Australian Sheep Genetics Database

- AWI:MLA co-investment
- Industry service – genetic hub
- Catalyst for progress and R&D



Molecular Genetics

Generate the sharp tools required for the next decades of genetic progress

Collaborative program developed

AWI \$15m

MLA \$15m

Plus \$20m from collaborators

Outcomes:

Gene markers for key traits

Practical, low cost pedigreeing

Compatibility with current systems



Productive and sustainable pastures

AWI is a major investor in pasture plant breeding for sheep producers.

40 commercially available legumes:

- 'Bolta' Balansa clover
- 'Charano' Yellow seradella
- 'Jester' barrel medic etc

More to come - e.g. lotus, melilotus & phalaris lines, in addition to the National Rhizobium Program

Long-term solutions to salinity and acidity problems!



Productive pasture management

AWI invests in developing systems for productive pasture management.

Biological Control of Weeds

Timerite™ for Red Legged Earth Mite control

SGSL network

Lifetime Wool Program

Soil Biology Program

Predicting pasture growth rates, based on satellite data



Health

Substantially reduce the cost of sheep health, and risk of exotic disease

20 projects, \$15m committed

Examples: Global search for new worm control chemicals

Mulesing replacement

Anti-protozoal vaccine

Footrot eradication

Novel dog & fox baits



Wool harvesting and measurement

Our intent is to ensure wool is more efficiently harvested and traded.

29 projects, \$15m committed

- Shear Express
- Harvest technology search
- Dark & medullated fibre
- OFFM – QA and Education
- Electronic Sheep and Bale ID



Investments are all about the future...

Foundations laid for future profitability

- Greater pasture productivity
- Sharper genetic tools
- Increased fibre quality
- Greater ease of management
- Solutions for wool harvesting

... much to be proud of, and much to look forward to ...





Questions and Answers