

William Roberts

We feel very strongly that Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is meeting its obligations under the Statutory Funding Agreement 2016-2020 with the Commonwealth and the Wool Services Privatisation Act 2000. It is an audited process and as a result AWI has to comply. The Board of AWI is a duly elected Board by Shareholders and as such has our complete confidence that the Governance Arrangements are effective and AWI is delivering benefits to Woolgrowers. AWI strives to meet Industry expectations but it is very hard to be all things to everybody so there will always be groups who feel they are disaffected by some of the decisions made by the Board. Most of the groups that feel disaffected are groups that have had funding pulled and now have to put their own hand in their pocket to continue the funding, AWI sometimes will remove funding from a project once they believe it has reached commercialisation. AWI has delivered higher wool prices to growers as a result of their marketing programs throughout the world. Our Cluster Fence Group has received funding from AWI to help clean the wild dogs out of our Cluster. There does not appear to be any barriers to you receiving funding from AWI provided the Business Case stacks up. We believe that AWI strives to engage, consult and communicate effectively. They use a range of mediums to achieve this - internet, email, podcasts, paper, Field Days. The Board and Senior Management of AWI is always approachable and listens to sensible dialogue. AWI always strives to make itself better and as a result of this would take on board the recommendations of the 2012-2015 Performance Review. AWI collaborates with other relevant Research and Development Corporations, wherever there is better bang for your buck. In all businesses there are different employment practices put in place, some of this is to suit the employer some of it is to suit the employee. It is very silly to lose corporate knowledge when an employee wants to change his situation so you try to come to an arrangement that suits both parties. We are very happy with the way AWI conducts itself and the role it plays in our industry. Without the wonderful work done by the current Board in restructuring the financial situation AWI may well have gone broke. There is absolutely no way we would support anybody having oversight of the Board of AWI. It is a duly elected Board and if you are not satisfied with the decisions of the Board then you have the opportunity at Board Elections to change the Board.