

## **Ian A Ross**

We run about 15,000 sheep specifically for the fine wool industry. If you want to be serious about getting objective and diverse feedback on the AWI, you need to have an effective engagement for feedback. We do not have the time to sit down rough draft a submission, type it up, fine tune it again and again to send it, as what goes on in offices, which is a total waste of time and efficiency when farming sheep is practical and a job out in the paddock. Independent consultancy firms need to actually get out there and do the work with the farmers rather than them providing you with the information and resources at their cost, making your job easier. Get out there on their farms. Consultancy firms already get overpaid for the job, which for the same amount of money, they should be out there physically gathering information. As far as the AWI goes, most grassroot farmers are disengaged as they have given up because of the dirty politics and bad governance, especially Wal Merriman's?? behaviour. On the practical sense, there has been no breakthrough innovations. IE new pasture species, effective marketing, geno mapping went nowhere as they pulled the funding etc. For all the tax that gets paid to the AWI they do a substandard job. And why should we be paying further taxes above our already taxes, when the government gives \$500m to the AFL? Why don't they fund themselves like we are required to do?