

2023 Review of the National Wool Declaration

Following the release of NWD v9.3 (see Appendix 1), the AWEX Board announced that a comprehensive review of the NWD would be undertaken in 2023, for implementation in July 2024. The proposed timeframe will ensure there is sufficient time for the consideration of all submissions and subsequent consultation with industry, and to facilitate a smooth transition to the next version.

The 2023 Review of the NWD will be undertaken by AWEX through an Industry Consultative Committee (NWD ICC). An Independent Chair will be appointed to the NWD ICC, with Committee members appointed in consultation with industry representative bodies.

This Review aims to ensure that the NWD is fit for purpose and that the declarations can be substantiated through the NWD-IP. The Review will consider the following topics *as well as any other aspect of the NWD and its Integrity Program*:

- The relevance of the current mulesing status declarations, viz. Non Mulesed (NM), Ceased Mulesing (CM), mulesed with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic products (AA), treated with Liquid Nitrogen (LN) and Mulesed (M).
Note, for consistency across the Australian wool industry, the definition of Mulesing is sourced from the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines.
- The potential inclusion of “other” breech modification alternatives or animal welfare declarations within the NWD.
- The user-friendliness of the NWD with respect to its correct completion by the owner/manager and data entry by wool broking staff.
- The NWD declaration and compliance rates, and Premiums and Discounts, and how it is being received by industry (see Appendix 2).
- The NWD-IP, involving desktop audits, verification of the use of AA and LN and on farm inspections for NM and CM.
- Communication plans for the release of NWD Version 10.

Consultation Period is Now Open

Industry stakeholders are invited to make a submission to the 2023 Review of the NWD. The consultation period is open from today through to the Monday 13th March 2023.

All submissions must be in writing and include the name and address of the author/organisation.

Submissions must be received by AWEX by Close of Business on Monday 13th March 2023. Emails are preferred.

When making a submission, please include the topic(s) and the background to the topic(s) as well as the reasoning/statistics behind any proposed change(s).

To provide feedback to NWD ICC for the 2023 Review, please use the following contact:

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National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions/Supporting Explanations

Please use the most accurate definition that applies to each mob. Mobs treated with Liquid Nitrogen must be declared as LN.

Definitions

Non Mulesed (NM)	No sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] or treated with liquid nitrogen#.
Liquid Nitrogen (LN)	Sheep in this mob have been treated with liquid nitrogen#.
Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic (AA)	Sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] <u>with</u> the use of an analgesic &/or anaesthetic product registered by APVMA.
Mulesed (M)	Sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] <u>without</u> the use of an analgesic &/or anaesthetic product registered by APVMA.
Ceased Mulesing (CM)	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed [^] . No mulesed [^] (or AA) ewes or wethers have been purchased in the last 12 months.

Supporting Explanations

[^]Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech <u>and/or</u> tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <i>Source: Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep prepared by Animal Health Australia, V1.0 2016.</i>
#Liquid Nitrogen	The application of liquid nitrogen where ultra-low temperatures are used to degenerate tissue and result in the removal of skin from the breech <u>and/or</u> tail of a sheep.
Mobs of Mixed Status	For <u>mobs of mixed status</u> , use the lowest applicable status according to this hierarchy, NM > LN > AA > M > ND. For example, declare AA for a mob containing NM and AA sheep, or declare M for a mob containing LN and M sheep.

Shedding Breeds Definitions

Shedding Breeds	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Black Headed and White Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
Contact with Shedding Breeds	Mated to, or run together since the previous shearing, with shedding breed sheep or their crosses (includes lambs from shedding breed sheep or their crosses).

Completing the NWD

- The Owner/Manager is responsible for ensuring the NWD is completed correctly.
- To complete the NWD:
 - Answer the two Property questions.
 - Record the PIC.
 - Complete the Mob Details (Mob No., Mob Status, Age/Shearing Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds and Shearing/Crutching History).
 - The Owner/Manager must Sign and Date the Declaration.
- The Wool Classer will complete the remainder of the Classer's Specification, including filling out the Bale Range for each Mob, and the Mob Numbers for all lines of wool.

NWD Codes

Age/Shearing Code		Breed Code		Sex Code	
1 st Shearing	1	Merino	M	Ewes	E
2 nd Shearing to 2 years	2	Afrino	FO	Wethers	W
3 years	3	SAMM	SM	Rams	R
4 years	4	Corriedale	CD	Mixed (E/W/R)	M
5 years	5	Polwarth	PW		
6, 7, 8 years etc.	6, 7, 8...	Crossbred	XB		
Mixed age, e.g. 4 to 6 years	4 – 6 or 4, 5, 6	Downs	DN		
		Shedding Breeds	SB		
		Carpet Wool	CW		

NWD V9.3, March 2022

Work, Health & Safety: In addition to completing this NWD, the Owner/Manager is also responsible for participation in the Integrity Program, which includes random desk audits and on farm inspections. The Owner/Manager acknowledges and agrees that they will participate in the on farm inspection in a way that is compliant with health and safety rules, and will advise AWEX if a scheduled inspection would be unsafe.

APPENDIX 2: NWD Declaration & Compliance Rates, and Premiums & Discounts

1. Declaration Rates for Mulesing Status

Figures based on % sum of bales, all breeds & wool types, first-hand offered, P&D Certs, excl. NZ.

Table 1 Declaration Rates (%) by Mulesing Status and State for Seasons 2010 – 2022 (31/12/2).

Note, insufficient LN declared to record a %.

Season	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021	2022
National Decl. Rate	42.2	44.8	49.5	61.2	70.2	76.1	75.3	72.8
By Mulesing Status								
NM	5.5	6.6	7.5	9.9	13.0	15.1	17.6	17.6
CM	3.1	2.4	2.8	2.9	2.5	4.1	3.0	2.7
AA	8.4	14.3	18.8	27.7	35.6	40.6	40.5	42.3
M	25.3	21.4	20.4	20.6	19.1	16.3	14.2	10.2
ND	57.8	55.2	50.5	38.8	29.8	23.9	24.8	27.1
By State								
NSW	43.2	49.6	56.3	68.1	75.3	81.4	80.0	77.3
QLD	30.0	38.2	39.5	52.7	75.0	80.3	84.2	86.5
SA	43.6	44.8	55.7	66.6	77.1	83.0	81.3	77.5
TAS	69.1	55.3	50.8	79.9	81.6	87.0	81.2	84.4
VIC	45.3	51.0	60.9	76.0	82.3	82.8	80.1	76.4
WA	36.5	28.4	20.9	31.1	40.3	50.7	51.5	50.1

Table 2a NWD Declaration Rates (%) Mulesing Status and State for Season 2021

Mulesing Status	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total Bales
NM	21.4	35.5	10.6	40.2	21.1	5.6	241,934
CM	3.2	2.9	2.2	9.8	4.2	0.6	41,554
AA	39.9	29.7	52.6	27.3	42.3	33.1	555,204
M	15.5	16.1	15.9	3.9	13.5	12.2	196,729
ND	20.0	15.8	18.7	18.9	18.8	48.4	345,928
Total Bales	579,825	40,450	227,045	45,601	298,022	281,273	1,381,349
% Declared	80.0	84.8	81.3	81.2	81.1	51.5	74.7

Table 2b NWD Declaration Rates (%) Mulesing Status and State for S22 (31/12/22)

Mulesing Status	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total Bales
NM	22.1	37.5	9.4	40.3	17.3	5.7	112,570
CM	3.1	5.8	2.1	7.4	3.2	0.5	17,544
AA	40.4	35.8	53.0	31.1	48.2	35.4	271,110
LN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	117
M	11.6	7.5	13.0	5.6	7.7	8.5	65,578
ND	22.7	13.5	22.5	15.6	23.7	49.9	173,620
Total Bales	272,624	23,803	99,150	21,812	108,748	114,402	640,539
% Declared	77.3	86.5	77.5	84.4	76.4	50.1	72.9

Table 3a NWD Declaration Rates (%) by Mulesing Status & MFD (μm) for Season 2021

Mulesing Status	<18.6	18.6 – 20.5	20.6 – 24.5	>24.5	Total Bales
NM	18.5	9.5	13.7	38.4	260,634
CM	4.4	2.7	1.7	1.9	43,803
AA	49.7	46.9	36.8	10.8	601,047
M	10.9	15.3	18.8	13.4	210,539
ND	16.4	25.6	29.1	35.4	368,156
% Declared	83.6	74.3	70.9	64.6	1,484,179

Table 3b NWD Declaration Rates (%) by Mulesing Status & MFD (μm) for S22 (31/12/22)

Mulesing Status	<18.6	18.6 – 20.5	20.6 – 24.5	>24.5	Total Bales
NM	19.7	9.9	14.1	36.8	112,570
CM	3.6	2.9	1.7	1.6	17,544
AA	50.7	47.8	39.2	12.7	271,110
LN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	117
M	7.8	11.9	13.6	7.6	65,578
ND	18.2	27.5	31.5	41.2	173,620
% Declared	81.8	72.5	68.5	58.8	640,539

Table 4a NWD Declaration Rates (%) by Mulesing Status & Breed/Micron (μm) for Season 2021

Breed	Merino					Crossbred					
	Mulesing Status	<18.6	18.6-20.5	20.6–24.6	>24.6	Total	<18.6	18.6-20.5	20.6–24.6	>24.6	Total
NM		18.5	9.5	7.0	26.5	12.6	27.1	33.2	38.3	38.5	37.4
CM		4.4	2.7	1.9	2.6	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.9	1.7
AA		49.8	46.9	43.9	14.4	47.5	20.4	8.7	10.5	10.8	10.7
M		10.9	15.3	20.8	26.7	14.5	7.7	8.9	11.2	13.4	13.0
ND		16.4	25.6	26.4	29.7	22.1	44.8	49.1	39.2	35.4	36.2
Total Bales		470,752	538,635	191,339	501	1,201,227	181	1,270	54,038	227,800	283,279

Table 4b NWD Declaration Rates (%) by Mulesing Status & AWEX ID Breed/Micron (μm) for S22 (31/12/22)

Breed	Merino					Crossbred					
	Mulesing Status	<18.6	18.6-20.5	20.6-24.6	>24.6	Total	<18.6	18.6-20.5	20.6-24.6	>24.6	Total
NM		19.6	9.8	8.2	18.0	13.4	46.7	36.1	39.3	36.8	37.3
CM		3.6	2.9	2.0	0.0	3.0	17.8	0.0	0.4	1.6	1.4
AA		50.7	47.9	45.5	9.0	48.6	8.9	13.5	14.4	12.8	12.7
LN (M=112, XB=5)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
M		7.9	11.9	16.0	40.2	11.0	3.0	10.9	3.1	7.5	6.7
ND		19.2	27.4	28.3	32.8	24.0	26.7	39.5	44.9	41.3	41.9
Total Bales		207,084	235,040	86,427	122	528,673	135	762	20,218	90,751	111,866

2. Compliance Rates for the NWD-IP

Table 5 NWD-IP Compliance Rates (%) for Seasons 2010 – 2022 (YTD 31/12/22)

Season	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
% Compliance						% (No.)	% (No.)	% (No.)	% (No.)
Desk Audit (%)	65	68	77	87	80	83 (1,495) ^a	89 (1,856) ^b	93 (1454) ^c	92 (760) ^d
AA Verification (%)	88	89	76	93	96	95 (494)	96 (452)	95 (292)	95 (174)
Inspections (%)	84	87	82	89	80	92 (65)	94 (310)	95 (77)	97 (125)

Desk Audits

NWD Desk Audit Non-Compliances are corrected prior to sale, with brokers notified. Extra Desk Audits are conducted on the NWD/Specis (requested from the broker) of auction and privately sold Brands when a Mulesing Status Certificate check is undertaken. Other Declaration issues include NWD not signed or provided, no mobs details, cannot trace mob to sale lot (or vice versa) etc.

^a Season 2019 (n = 1,495) – 17% Non-Compliance comprises: 9% CM Status not Confirmed, 6% Data Entry Error & 2% Other Declaration Issues.

^b Season 2020 (n = 1,727) – 11% Non-Compliance comprises: 4% CM Status not Confirmed, 5% Data Entry Error & 2% Other Declaration Issues.

^c Season 2021 (n = 1,454) – 6.7% Non Compliance comprises: 2% CM Status Not Confirmed, 2.5% Data Entry Error & 2.2% Other Declaration Issues.

^d Season 2022 (n = 760) – 8.0% Non Compliance comprises: 3.0% CM Status Not Confirmed, 2.8% Data Entry Errors & 2.2% Other Declaration Issues.

3. Premium and Discounts for Mulesing Status

Table 6 Premiums and Discounts for Mulesing Status, Seasons 2015, 2020 – 2022 (YTD 31/12/22)

		MERINO						NON-MERINO				
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30
		NON MULESED (NM)										
Season	2015	10	15	7	8	8	1	-15	0	-1	1	4
	2020	33	27	32	26	19	19			0	6	2
	2021	78	77	68	53	51	12		7	5	8	
	2022		52	40	25	6	6		5	-8	8	
		CEASED MULESING (CM)										
Season	2015	51	15	3	8	5	4	-1	2	5	-8	-3
	2020		1	3	8	8	3			1		
	2021		61	40	31							
	2022			27	28							
		MULESED with ANALGESIC and/or ANAESTHETIC (AA)										
Season	2015	2	2	-4	0	1	0	2	8		9	14
	2020	19	12	10	11	11	5	3		4	7	2
	2021		16	12	13	14	1	6	3	5	3	
	2022		28	9	12	4	2			9		
		NOT DECLARED (ND)										
Season	2015	8	5	-2	-4	-4	0	0	-6	-4	-2	-2
	2020		-4	2	-5	-6	-1	-2		-8	-4	
	2021		-6	-5	-7	-10	-4		-7	-7	-10	-6
	2022			-18	-2	-3	1		-8	-8	-8	

Criteria for Calculation of Ps and Ds for Mulesing Status:

- Australian Stored; Merino Fleece/Weaners and Crossbred Fleece.
- >30 N/ktex, >60% Schlum Dry, <2.2 VMB, Styles 4/5, Good/light colour (incl. H1), P Cert.
- Lengths according to Diameter Range: 70–95 mm (<18 µm), 75–99 mm (19–21 µm), 83–104 mm (22–24 µm), 90–110 mm (26–29 µm), 100–130 mm (30–34 µm).
- Records per group (micron/NWD status) >2, empty cells when not enough data to generate a P or D.
- Comparison with Prices for wool declared as Mulesed.