

14th October 2022

AWEX Wool Classer Employment Survey

AWEX wishes to advise that today it has emailed a Wool Classer Employment Survey to all registered Australian Wool Classers (AW) and Master Classers (MC) to establish the current state of the Australian wool classing environment. Since COVID-19, the wool industry has faced challenges with respect to the availability of not only wool classers but all wool harvesting staff. Although focused on classers, the survey seeks information that will also reflect the conditions faced by shearers and the wool harvesting team alike.

The survey is seeking feedback on the employment activity of and conditions experienced by wool classers. The specific issues for consideration include:

- When, where and how they work,
- WHS, e.g. standard of workplace/infrastructure, lighting, hygiene and standard of facilities, access to clean water etc.,
- Incidence of drugs &/or alcohol, bullying, violence, or sexual harassment,
- Animal welfare practices,
- Expectations of owner/managers, contractors, broker's reps & other team members,
- Assistance given by owner/managers, contractors, broker's reps & other team members, and
- Issues that positively and negatively impact on their job satisfaction.

The survey results will be summarised to assist with AWEX's future activities on behalf of classers, with aggregate results provided to industry bodies that may be able to assist in improving classers' and wool harvesting teams' working experience.

It is imperative that the entire wool industry acts now to retain current and attract new classers, shearers, pressers and wool handlers.

Note, the individual survey answers will remain confidential to AWEX and will not be shared with any other person or organisation.

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