



Australian Wool Growers Ltd

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To the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee.

Re: Relocation of Government Bodies to regional areas.

Dear Chair,

The Australian Woolgrowers Association is a nationally represented sheep and wool representative body that fully supports and endorses the Turnbull / Joyce Government in relocating Government Ag bodies to regional areas of Australia.

In particular, we urge the Government to relocate the following bodies to regional areas to boost much needed employment and opportunities for communities that live far from major urban areas:

1. APVMA relocated into the Armidale region of NSW.

a. Armidale produces some of the finest and most qualified scientific Ag research people in Australia via its university at UNE, a natural conclusion for many students who could then contemplate a career in Government public service while living with families in Armidale.

b. Having employees who are farmer focused would make APVMA a more Ag friendly organisation with more decentralised focus on more expeditious farm product registration timelines for the benefit of the Australian farming community. APVMA's current record of product registration is woeful and a hindrance to further investment into Australia for new productive on farm products by overseas and local companies.

c. Regional communities are suffering with low employment opportunities forcing many leave their homes to seek work in large cities, having to leave families to seek higher incomes and opportunities to suit their profession. Relocating Government bodies to regional areas would boost local economies, a virtual economic stimulation in areas badly needing such help.

2. Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) relocated to Goulburn or Dubbo, NSW.

a. As above, such relocation would bring 80 new Job opportunities to regional areas of NSW, especially to a town such as Goulburn where the new wool selling centre will be also relocated. It makes much sense for AWI to be located in same building as where the nation's wool is sold to its customers.

b. The cost savings to AWI and its levy payers will be enormous, allowing more local on farm research as well as freeing up more funds for overseas wool marketing efforts. Currently, all wool marketing is either conducted in the EU or China via the Gold Woolmark in China and HRH Campaign for Wool in the UK, so it makes no difference where AWI to is located in Australia.



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We commend the Turnbull / Joyce government for such affirmative and positive action to support regional Australia and boost local jobs and bring wealth to regional communities.

Yours Sincerely

Robert McBride

Chairman

Australian Woolgrowers Association Ltd