Sheep and Goat Traceability Task Force
Terms of Reference

The Sheep and Goat Traceability Task Force (SGTTF) will oversee the national roll-out of the individual electronic identification (eID) for all sheep and goats.

SGTTF will report through the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) to Agricultural Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) and operate as follows:

1) Develop and execute a formal agreement that details an agreed National Implementation Plan, timelines and targets to enable a staged approach to a national 'go-live' date by 1 January 2025 (noting Victoria completed an implementation program on 1 January 2022). Discussions with industry concerning targets and timelines is to be conducted to gain support.

   a) The National Implementation Plan will build off the national Electronic Identification Implementation Timeline for Sheep and Goats in table 1.

2) Report progress regularly to the NBC/AGSOC on agreed milestones and deliverables as set out in the National Implementation Plan.

3) Review and amend the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Standards (business rules) to support the operation of the nationally harmonised electronic NLIS (Sheep & Goats) system in consultation with the jurisdictions and industry.

4) Utilise an industry-government co-design initiative, established by the Commonwealth, to work through short-term and long-term implementation questions as determined by the SGTTF. These could include and would not be limited to – rollout of eIDs; reporting and recording requirements; database infrastructure; costs; and, governance. Questions could be for short-term sheep and goat eID implementation, or longer-term systemic reform.

5) Manage the progress of harmonised eID implementation within agreed timelines and funding to support in the first instance:

   a) timely achievement of the national mandated 'go-live' date for full implementation of the new sheep and goats eID system.

   b) collation of jurisdictional Implementation Plans to form the agreed National Implementation Plan.

   c) a cost guide to inform outcome-based funding to provide a range of initiatives and infrastructure (including software) to enable mandatory scanning and uploading of sheep and goats eID whenever transacted or moved within the supply chain – as detailed in the agreed National Implementation Plan.

   d) determine if funding can be applied to support national initiatives that will place sustained downward pressure on the retail price of electronic NLIS tags, such as further automation in tag manufacturing in Australia.

6)   Provide advice to NBC/AGSOC on expenditure decisions to ensure that the use of any co- funding arrangements is effective and consistent with agreed conditions.

7)   In consultation with jurisdictional governments and industry, respond as appropriate to issues as they emerge including those relating to strategy, agreed milestones and deliverables, funding, communications and database functionality.

The SGTTF may also provide advice through the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) to Agricultural Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) on actions to support improved traceability systems and benefits for other livestock species, based on work to implement change for sheep and goats.

Membership

Membership of the SGTTF will be skills based to provide both strategic and technical oversight and will be as follows:

a)   Independent Chairperson appointed by NBC

b)   Representatives nominated by NBC from NSW, TAS, VIC, WA, SA, QLD and the Commonwealth (representing the other jurisdictions)

c)   A representative and a proxy nominated by SAFEMEAT

d)   Representatives from peak councils for sheep, wool, goats, beef and/or dairy cattle industries, as well as retailers, processors and smallgoods.

NB: Some members may also be members of the industry-government co-design initiative.

Secretariat support

Secretariat support to SGTTF is to be provided by a member organisation of the taskforce.

Term of appointment

The term of office of the Chairperson and SGTTF members will be up to three years from the date of the first meeting, or as determined by NBC.

Remuneration and expenses

Remuneration of members including meeting related expenses will be the responsibility of their employers. Most meetings are likely to be held using online virtual communication or similar communication platforms.

Agreed renumeration for an independent chair and secretariat to be cost shared by jurisdictions.

Roles and responsibilities of Chairperson

The Chairperson will ensure that meetings are held as required and will be responsible for engaging with the secretariat on the development of meeting agendas and the progressing of actions arising from meetings.

The Chairperson is the spokesperson for the SGTTF and may represent the SGTTF were deemed appropriate.

Media releases relating to SGTTF activities will be circulated to members as drafts for comment before being issued.

For more information, contact the Sheep and Goat Traceability Taskforce Secretariat at livestock.traceability@agriculture.gov.au.