



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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SHEEP ADVISORY GROUP TO ASSESS PRODUCER NEEDS

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today announced that the NSW Sheep Advisory Group has been re-formed to provide expert advice on sheep health and industry issues.

Ms Hodgkinson said the Sheep Advisory Group will also provide advice on the use of residual money from the Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) Industry Fund for projects or programs that benefit NSW sheep producers.

The three members of the Sheep Advisory Group are:

- Ron Penny
- Andrew Martel
- Ian Cargill

"All three people are highly regarded in the sheep industry and I look forward to their advice on key sheep health and industry matters," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Mr Penny has extensive experience in rural industries as a producer and an administrator. He was the CEO of Saleyard Operators Australia for 10 years and has chaired the Federal Area Consultative Committee for Central NSW.

"Mr Martel has spent a lifetime as a primary producer in the sheep industry; he was a former chair of the NSW Farmers Association Sheepmeats group and served on the previous Sheep Advisory Group.

"Mr Cargill is a sheep producer with broad industry and community contacts and is a current executive councillor with the NSW Farmers Association," Ms Hodgkinson said.

Minister Hodgkinson said the group would meet for the first time in September and would discuss the first round of project proposals submitted for funding consideration.

"Over \$1 million is held in trust from the OJD Industry Fund for suitable research, extension or surveillance projects.

"The Sheep Advisory Group will ensure that the money remaining in the OJD Industry Fund will be applied for the benefit of the sheep industry," Ms Hodgkinson said.

Applicants seeking funding from the residual monies in the NSW Sheep Industry Fund for research, extension or surveillance projects may apply using the application form available at the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/sheep/ojd/fund