

LAMB DEFINITION

POLICY POSTCARD



SHEEP
PRODUCERS
AUSTRALIA

Securing Markets



OLD DEFINITION OF LAMB

Meat derived from a female, castrated male, or entire male ovine animal that shows no evidence of eruption of permanent incisor teeth.



NEW DEFINITION OF LAMB

Young sheep under 12 months of age or which do not have any permanent incisor teeth in wear.

POLICY DECISION

Sheep Producers Australia has endorsed a change in the industry definition of lamb to be the same as the New Zealand definition.

The new definition is 'young sheep under 12 months of age or which do not have any permanent incisor teeth in wear'.

BACKGROUND

The decision was based on the majority of feedback provided during a nine-week public consultation phase in which 83% of respondents to an industry survey supported the change.

The SPA Board endorsed an evidence-based policy position that reflects what the majority of Australian sheep producers want.

EFFECTS ON FARM

The new definition will even the playing field with New Zealand in export markets and provide producers with an indicator before they incur the 'price cliff face' of lamb being downgraded to hogget or mutton. The current definition means that as soon as eruption is evident, the animal becomes classed as mutton, and results in a lower price.

THE WAY FORWARD

SPA, in conjunction with Australian sheepmeat supply chain representative bodies, is developing the proposed regulatory compliance framework, implementation process, strategic national harmonisation plan and budgeted cost for final SPA Board approval before the end of 2018.



POLICY ORGANISATIONS: Sheep Producers Australia

TECHNICAL ADVICE: Meat & Livestock Australia

FULL DETAILS: Download the SPA Lamb Definition Explanatory Policy Paper at www.sheepproducers.com.au

