



**GLENN STERLE**

**Shadow Assistant Minister for Road Safety**

**Chair, Senate Rural, Regional Affairs & Transport References Committee**

**Labor Senator for Western Australia**

18 May 2021

Mr Jim Story  
Secretary  
Australian Wool Innovation  
Level 6, 68 Harrington Street  
The Rocks, Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: [Jim.Story@wool.com](mailto:Jim.Story@wool.com)

Dear Mr Story,

The Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) appeared before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (the committee) during Senate Estimates (Additional) on 23 March 2021. At that hearing, the committee sought further information about the process of the AWI board election with the following exchange:

*Senator STERLE: Walk me through it. Mr Olsson asked permission to use such a form. I'm informed that he was given written advice that this was allowable under the AWI election rules. You're saying, no, it wasn't. There was nothing written?*

*Mr McCullough: I'll have to check what was written to Mr Olsson, but certainly the advice back from our legal counsel was no.*

The AWI provided a response to this question on notice, along with an attachment detailing the AWI board nomination process (attached).

On 26 March 2021, Sheep Central published an article regarding the AWI's appearance during that hearing. The committee would like to draw your attention to the following passage from that article (available at:

<https://www.sheepcentral.com/australian-wool-innovation-defends-evidence-to-senate-committee/>):

*Mr Story, in a text on July 23 2019, told Mr Olsson:*

*“Chick, I am writing to advise that our legal advice is that it is permissible albeit unusual for you to have several candidates named on the nomination form.*

*“That will mean that the signatories on the form will apply for the 3 candidates as you outlined to me.”*

The committee requests that you provide the following information:

1. The legal advice referred to in your 23 July 2019 text to Mr Olsson allowing a joint ticket, and the later legal advice disallowing a joint ticket.
2. A description of your account of events.
3. The details of historical records that are kept regarding nomination forms.
4. The full list of signatures submitted by Mr Olsson.

The committee requests that this information is provided by Friday, 21 May 2021.

Please contact the committee's secretariat if you require any assistance with this request.

Yours sincerely,

**GLENN STERLE  
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ROAD SAFETY  
CHAIR – SENATE RURAL, REGIONAL AFFAIRS & TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE  
LABOR SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA**