



15 July 2021

Senator Susan McDonald  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport – Legislation  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: RRAT.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator

I write regarding Senate Estimates Question-on-Notice SQ21-000998 in relation to a report prepared by EY Port Jackson Partners Limited for the AWI Board regarding WoolQ.

AWI has not provided the requested report by EY Port Jackson Partners (EY PJP) as AWI does not have the rights to distribute the report. EY PJP holds the rights to release the document to external parties. We are in discussions with EY PJP on this matter.

The focus of the report was to inform the AWI board on how to optimise the WoolQ platform to deliver the best long-term outcomes for Australian wool growers and the industry more broadly.

Topics covered include, but were not limited to:

- Addressing resistance to encourage greater participation from stakeholder groups.
- Assess potential ownership structures to determine the most commercially viable and effective model for all of industry.
- Determine at what point a potential divestment of AWI ownership (either in part, or in full) would be most feasible.

In preparing the report EY PJP undertook extensive consultation with all of industry from wool growers, brokers, logistics providers, software providers, exporters and industry bodies. The results of these discussions are consolidated within the report and contain a number of items that AWI consider to be commercial-in-confidence. Release of the report could bring prejudice to any sale options that AWI may consider, thus diluting the competitive tension over the sale of the WoolQ asset.

Additionally, the privacy of parties identified in the paper would be breached should it be circulated to an external audience.

AWI requests that this report remains commercial-in-confidence to ensure AWI can deliver the best commercial outcome for Australian wool growers.

Should EY PJP provide clearance to release the report AWI offers to facilitate a private briefing for the Committee, or individual Senators, on the report requested by Senator Sterle.

Your consideration for the EY PJP report to remain commercial-in-confidence is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McCullough  
**Chief Executive Officer**