



5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

2020/19

**From the desk of Chris Wilcox, Executive Director**

- Australian wool prices on the up
- AWTA wool tests plummet in May
- Australian wool exports fall abruptly in April due to Covid-19
- NM-, PR- and CM-declared wool at 56% share of wool offered
- New regulations for administering pain relief in Victoria
- Good rainfall across eastern Australia over autumn, good outlook
- Upcoming scheduled industry events



**Wool test volumes slump in May**

The latest statistics from AWTA shows that the volume of wool tested in May slumped compared with a year ago. The number of bales tested was 28.5% lower than May 2018 and the weight of wool tested was 28.2% lower. That's the largest year-on-year fall for any month since August 2003. The large drop will, in part, have been caused by the Covid-19 restrictions constraining shearing and a lack of immediacy for growers to get wool to market given the decline in wool prices (in contrast to May last year when the EMI was sitting at around 1900 c/kg). For the season to the end of May, the weight of wool tested was 7.6% lower than for the same period in the 2018/19 season.

Each of the micron ranges saw similar declines to the aggregate in May, with 18.5 micron & finer down by 28%, the 19-20 micron range 25% lower, the 21-24 micron category down by 30%, the 25-28 micron range down by 40% and the 29 micron & broader category down by 23%. All states also saw large drops in the weight of wool tested (as measured by Wool Statistical Area), led by South Australia (down by 47%), Victoria (down by 33%), Tasmania (down 27%) and New South Wales (down 25%). Western Australia and Queensland saw more moderate (although still large) declines of 15% and 14% respectively.

**Further details, including a chart showing the year-on-year % change in the weight of wool tested by month back to July 2012 as well as the 12-month moving average of the % change, is contained in the full edition of the NCWSBA Weekly Newsletter. Available to NCWSBA members.**

**INDUSTRY EVENTS**

**Wool Week** is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, although this is to be confirmed.

The **NCWSBA Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> August (to be confirmed)

The **Nanjing Wool Market Conference** is scheduled to be held in Haining, Zhejiang on 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (to be confirmed).

**WOOL SALES WEEK BEGINNING 8 JUNE 2020 – week 50  
(roster as at 3/6/2020)**

<u>Sydney</u>	
Thurs, 11 <sup>th</sup> June	5,579 bales
<u>Melbourne</u>	
Wed, 10 <sup>th</sup> June; Thurs, 11 <sup>th</sup> June	13,726 bales
<u>Fremantle</u>	
Wed, 10 <sup>th</sup> May	4,835 bales

*Information in the Weekly Newsletter is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to constitute advice for a specific purpose.*