

# Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council Recruitment

Applications close 11:59pm Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2024

## *About the Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council*

The Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council (“Policy Council”) enables producer representation, consultation, and input into the development of proactive industry policy that is in the best interests of the Australian sheep industry. The development of industry policy is vital so that the industry can influence the framework that guides the sheep industry to a productive, sustainable and profitable future.

In addition to creating policy for industry, the Policy Council also plays an important role in advising the Sheep Producers Australia Board on issues related to the strategic objectives of Sheep Producers Australia and its Members. The Policy Council’s key responsibilities are to:

- (a) Provide a forum for Sheep Producers Australia Members to address the key issues and challenges of national significance in relation to the sheep industry and recommend industry policy to be adopted by the Sheep Producers Australia Board.
- (b) Identify, discuss and recommend courses of action in relation to industry policy and current industry priorities.
- (c) Provide recommendations and advice to the Sheep Producers Australia Board on:
  - i. input into levy expenditure by MLA, AHA and NRS (“Service Providers”).
  - ii. strategic policy issues to represent industry to Stakeholders (as defined in the Policy Council Terms of Reference).
  - iii. collaboration with Stakeholders on red meat supply chain and cross-commodity issues as they relate to the sheep industry.
  - iv. establishment of Taskforces and Working Groups to inform Policy Council discussions and decision making.

## *Applicant eligibility*

Sheep Producers Australia is seeking applications from passionate and skilled individuals to join its Policy Council and support the Sheep Producers Australia Board in delivering high quality policy and leadership for the sheep industry.

In accordance with the Policy Council Terms of Reference, the Policy Council is constituted of:

- One State Farming Organisation (“SFO”) nominated member from each SFO (7 in total)
- Up to five independent representatives, who do not need to be an SFO member (5 in total)
- One SFO staff member from each SFO, as an observer (7 in total)
- One independent Policy Council Chair, appointed by the Sheep Producers Australia Board.

**State Farming Organisation (SFO) nominated representatives:**

- SFO representatives must be a member of the nominating SFO.

**Independent representatives:**

- Independent representatives may be members of an SFO, but this fact must be declared in their application. If successful, the independent representative must strictly carry out the role only as an independent representative in accordance with the Terms of Appointment.

***Selection Criteria***

The table below represents the desirable skills and experience for Policy Council Members. It is not necessary for each applicant to meet all listed skills for the Policy Council. What is essential to ensure a structure that best informs Sheep Producers Australia policy is that all identified skills are attained across the Policy Council membership.

The table represents the five key areas for applicants to address in their Policy Council application form:

***Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council Skills and Experience Matrix***

<b>1. Relevant Industry experience</b>	<p><b>Knowledge and awareness of:</b></p> <p><b>1.1</b> On farm sheep production</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Supply chains, food safety and processing</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Marketing</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Agricultural commodity trade</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Animal health and biosecurity</p> <p><b>1.6</b> Agricultural research, extension and adoption</p> <p><b>1.7</b> Red meat industry peak bodies, structures and strategic plans</p> <p><b>1.8</b> Environment and climate</p>
<b>2. Policy</b>	<p><b>2.1</b> Knowledge of legislative and regulatory concepts.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Experience in government processes and public policy development.</p>
<b>3. Advocacy</b>	<p><b>3.1</b> Ability to effectively communicate and debate issues collaboratively and respectfully.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Experience in an advocacy role or advocacy activities.</p>
<b>4. Industry leadership</b>	<p><b>4.1</b> Demonstrated leadership experience in industry positions, or equivalent.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Demonstrated ability to represent the national interests of the Australian sheep industry and support this approach when reporting to the nominating State Farming Organisation</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Ability to mentor future sheep industry advocates.</p>

<b>5. Levy investment</b>	<b>5.1</b> Understanding of the sheep transaction levies (purpose, collection, recipients, levy raising principles and guidelines). <b>5.2</b> An ability to articulate investment options and identify opportunities for future levy investment.
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### *Responsibilities of Policy Council Members*

In accordance with the Policy Council Terms of Reference, the key responsibilities of the Policy Council Members are:

- Being fully prepared for each meeting, having read the documentation in advance.
- Making every reasonable effort to attend each meeting.
- Submitting formal apologies to the Chair if unable to attend.
- Consulting with their stakeholders in advance of each meeting.
- Reporting relevant meeting outputs back to Stakeholders (or approving the SFO staff member observer's draft report of meeting outputs back to stakeholders).
- Supporting Policy Council decisions that may not align with an individual SFO's stated policy position.
- Understanding and abiding by any policies, procedures or directions as set by the Sheep Producers Australia Board, including, without limitation, the Sheep Producers Australia Code of Conduct and Council Terms of Appointment.
- Declaring any actual or potential conflicts of interest as a standing disclosure at meetings and/or as soon as they become apparent.

### *Term of Appointment*

- A term of appointment for all Policy Council Members is two years with a maximum of three consecutive appointments.
- Policy Council Members whose terms which have expired will be eligible for renomination in accordance with term of appointment limits.
- Policy Council members seeking re-nomination to the Policy Council will be required to submit an application, in response to the selection criteria.

### *Remuneration and Sitting Fees*

Policy Council Members will be reimbursed reasonable travel, accommodation and meal expenses in accordance with the Sheep Producers Australia Domestic Travel Policy. Members will also receive a sitting fee for the time they are engaged in the affairs or business of the Council at a rate agreed to by the Sheep Producers Australia Board.

### *How to apply*

1. Complete the Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council application form.
2. Note Persons applying to represent an SFO will need to secure support from their SFO prior to submission.

**CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN COMPLETED)**



2. Email to Board Selection Committee Secretariat, Rachel Cofrancesco at [rachel@rcconsultancy.com.au](mailto:rachel@rcconsultancy.com.au) by 11:59pm Sunday 18 August 2024 with the heading:  
**IN CONFIDENCE: SPA Policy Council Application.**

Applications will close at **11:59pm Sunday 18 August 2024**. Applications will be assessed by the Board Selection Committee. Applicants may be invited to attend an interview with the Board Selection Committee. This may be conducted via Zoom.

## Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council Application Form

**Position (please tick):**

**SFO nominated member**

**Independent Member**

**Applicant information**

First name	
Last name	
Email	
Mobile phone	
State Farming Organisation (if relevant)	
State of Residence	
<b><i>For SFO Nominees</i></b>	
<i>Name and Position of Nominating Officer</i>	
<i>Signature of Nominating Officer</i>	

**Response to Selection Criteria**

*Please describe how you meet the following key areas of the selection criteria (max. 200 words for each):*

<p>1. Relevant Industry experience</p>	
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2. Policy

3. Advocacy

4. Industry leadership

5. Levy investment

**Please answer the following additional questions (max. 200 words):**

<p><b>Why would you like to be a member of the Sheep Producers Australia Policy Council?</b></p>	
<p><b>What do you consider to be a key policy issue for the national sheep industry to address in the next 12 months?</b></p>	



**Conflicts of Interest**

*Please identify any potential conflicts of interest that are relevant to your application, including membership of a state farming organisation, affiliation with a research and development corporation and/or other livestock peak bodies.*

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**Referee details:**

Name	
Organisation	
Position	
Email	
Phone	