



WAFARMERS

Annual Report



2025

Table of Contents

President's Report	2
Grains Section Report	4
Livestock Section Report	8
Dairy Section Report	14
General Section Report	16
Media Activities	18
Membership & Events	20
Our Members	22
National Farmers' Federation Report	24
Financial Report	27
Audit Report	28
Income & Expenditure Statement	29
Balance Sheet	30
Corporate Partners and Supporters	31



President's Report

Steve McGuire

I want to begin my first President's report by acknowledging some of the people who have worked hard to maintain WAFarmers' reputation as the credible, potent and stable voice of the Western Australian agricultural community. 2025 was an exceptionally turbulent year in both agri-politics and agri-business not only in WA, but also nationally and internationally.

Firstly, I thank John Hassell for his leadership as President over his term, particularly his tireless efforts driving the Keep the Sheep campaign. John's determination helped rally the national farm sector against a poorly conceived, politically based policy. His ongoing role representing WA at the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) will ensure our voice is heard in Canberra at the highest levels.

I also want to formally recognise Laura Stocker, who concluded six years of outstanding service as Executive Manager of our Dairy Council. Her commitment, clarity and steady leadership has left a lasting legacy for WA dairy farmers, and we wish her every success in the next chapter of her career.

To Melanie Tolich, our Corporate Manager, Policy, Government and Stakeholder Relations — and wearer of more hats than most would believe possible — congratulations and thank you. Mel has been central to every major policy issue we have faced this year, and her work has strengthened WAFarmers' reputation as the state's most capable and credible agricultural advocate.

Finally, our one-of-a-kind CEO Trevor Whittington has wielded the reins with expertise and guided our association over many significant hurdles this year. His frank and fearless authenticity combined with his extensive political experience and insight has continued to solidify WAFarmers' position as WA's trusted advocate for our critically important farmers.

A year shaped by two elections

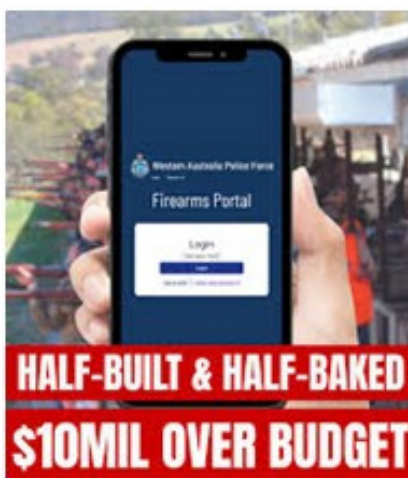


Both the State and Federal elections framed much of the policy environment this year. Federally, the NFF tabled a substantial suite of policy priorities covering workforce, tax, climate, trade, telecommunications, biosecurity and drought resilience. It was disappointing, though not surprising, to see many of these critical issues lost in the noise of the election campaign.

At a State level, WAFarmers kept our message simple and direct: "Do no harm". We asked the Government to consult properly before rolling out new regulations, particularly where farming livelihoods were at stake.

Unfortunately, as many farmers have now experienced firsthand, a government emboldened by a strong third term majority often falls into the trap of narrowing its consultation — preferring sycophantic voices from within its own bubble than confronting truth-tellers from beyond.

Firearms Licensing - A predictable debacle



One of the most disruptive policy failures of the year was the 1 April commencement of the new firearms regulations and the introduction of the Primary Producers Licence. WAFarmers warned repeatedly that the system was not ready, not tested and not aligned with practical on-farm needs.

What followed proved those concerns correct.

Farmers have faced long delays, unclear requirements, contradictory advice and unnecessary administrative burdens. A licensing regime intended to improve safety and compliance instead became a textbook case of bureaucratic overreach.

While the stacked Parliamentary Committee that reviewed the new regime confirmed the Government didn't listen to our practical advice prior to the fiasco, WAFarmers is still working in good faith to deliver urgent changes that will ensure farmers have the tools they require to operate safely and responsibly.

Live Export Transition – National confusion



Federally, the commencement of the live export transition package created similar levels of frustration. The lack of detail from Canberra on eligibility, timelines, definitions of affected businesses, and transition assistance left producers in limbo.

President Report cont.

Steve McGuire

Few farmers could determine what they were entitled to, how to apply, or whether the package would meaningfully support their business. WAFarmers has been clear with the Federal Government: a policy that is both economically damaging and administratively opaque is unacceptable. We will continue to advocate for clarity, fairness and a genuine commitment to regional WA.

Engagement with Government

Throughout the year, I met with the state minister for agriculture on several occasions, raising issues from firearms to live export to the escalating pressures on farming businesses.

(One encouraging development is the long-overdue progress on relocating the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to a new headquarters after more than 40 years of unfulfilled promises.

However, we know that buildings alone will not fix the deeper structural problems inherent in the department. For the ninth consecutive year State Budget, DPIRD funding has been reduced, including cuts to research, biosecurity and essential industry partnerships. The loss of support for organisations such as the Grower Group Alliance and AGEIC sends the clear signal that the Government is not committed to agricultural innovation and market development.

This remains a key area of advocacy for WAFarmers, and we will continue working to ensure the Government reverses this short-sighted trend.

National Representation and the Future of the NFF



WAFarmers is deeply engaged in the evolving discussions around NFF restructuring. As a State Farming Organisation, we invest around one dollar in five raised from members into supporting national peak bodies.

We are acutely aware that this is a significant investment and must deliver a reasonable return. Supporting other peak bodies remains dependent on their ability to our members more efficiently than we could.

With many policies affecting farm businesses emanating from Canberra – whether in workforce, taxation, climate, live exports, industrial relations or biosecurity – our representation at the national table remains critical.

The NFF's 20-plus policy staff working across every major agricultural portfolio provide a level of reach and expertise in federal issues no state body could replicate. This complements the work of the

three full-time staff we have at WAFarmers and ensures our members' interests are well represented at both state and federal levels.

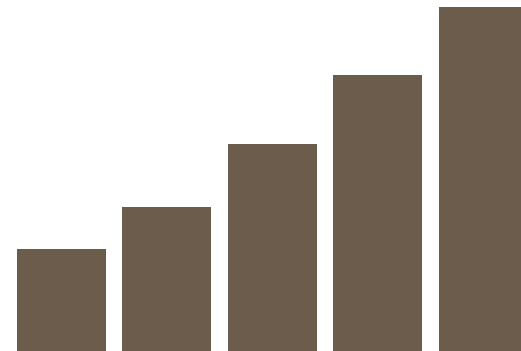
Looking Ahead

Despite the challenges of the past year – many of them avoidable – I remain optimistic about the strength and resilience of Western Australian agriculture. Our members continue to innovate, adapt and advocate, and WAFarmers remains committed to ensuring government policy supports rather than hinders the sector.

Thank you to the Board, our Councils, staff, and all members for your support and engagement. I look forward to working with you over my term to secure a stronger, more prosperous future for WA farmers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve McGuire".

Steve McGuire





Grain Report

Mark Fowler and Melanie Tolich

2025 proved to be one of the most strategically important years for Western Australian grain growers in more than a decade. While seasonal conditions came good after a patchy start, yet again it was the policy environment—not the weather—that demanded the Council’s full attention.

From chemical regulation to rail reform and sustainability frameworks to levy governance, it became clear that WA growers are operating within state and national systems increasingly misaligned with the local realities on the ground. The Council worked hard this year to drag those systems back toward science, accountability and common sense.

Council members continued to show the resilience and clarity that define WA’s grower leadership. We confronted federal agencies drifting away from evidence-based regulation, pushed for reforms to secure the state’s supply chain, refused to accept imported sustainability standards unsuited to our landscapes, and led national work on levy reform and governance accountability. We also strengthened our partnerships—with GPA, GRDC, CBH and other industry bodies—while continuing to advocate for WA-specific solutions where national frameworks fall short.

The principle guiding every decision this year was simple: WA growers deserve systems designed around WA agriculture — not eastern-states assumptions, offshore ideology or politically convenient narratives. That principle will continue to guide us into 2026.

Key Policy Achievements and Advocacy

Chemical Regulation – Paraquat

Chemical regulation again dominated national agricultural policy, and the APVMA’s handling of the paraquat and diquat review exposed a regulator drifting away from scientific, risk-based assessment towards a hazard-based

methodology like in Europe. It also revealed a concerning erosion in the independence of the APVMA, with the Federal Government repeatedly and improperly interfering with the process. At the same time, we saw activist elements within the ABC run a carefully planned, yet misinformed, campaign to further undermine the regulatory position of this vital chemistry.



The initial APVMA recommendations for paraquat and diquat were unworkable for WA’s broadacre system as they ignored our low-biodiversity environment, applied questionable scientific logic and risked dismantling decades of soil-conservation gains.

WAFarmers worked closely with GPA, PGA and WAGG to correct scientific errors, challenge flawed modelling and reinforce the agronomic realities of WA farming systems. Technical submissions, ministerial briefings and targeted scientific critiques were delivered throughout the year. We advocated strongly in the media to correct misunderstandings and call out the bias and flaws in the ABC campaign. The Council also pressed the GRDC to fund updated avian and mammalian toxicology studies to prevent registrants withdrawing support entirely.

While Council is confident that the industry has done enough to retain most of the current label use patterns, there remains a risk that the final APVMA ruling (due shortly) will go the other way, which would be unthinkable for WA grain growers, the environment and regional communities.

Rail Lease Buy-Back – Securing WA’s Supply Chain

The Cook Government’s proposed buy-back of the Brookfield/ARC regional rail lease is one of the most significant structural reforms facing WA agriculture.

With crop production trending toward 27–30 million tonnes in the 2030s, the current dependence on WA’s severely underfunded road network is unsustainable. Every million tonnes shifted from rail to road adds around 12,500 truck movements—further deteriorating roads, increasing freight costs and compromising safety for all.

Council gave unanimous in-principle support for the buy-back provided the valuation is completely transparent, access pricing remains competitive, and governance does not shift inefficiencies or costs onto growers.

Our engagement with CBH reaffirmed that the buy-back could reset the currently unworkable regulatory arrangements, unlock new and necessary investment potential and restore strategic control over this vital infrastructure.

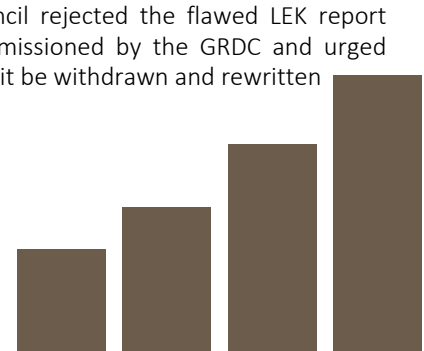
WAFarmers’ members can rest assured that the Council will remain actively engaged as reforms advance.

Sustainability



ISCC compliance remains a major constraint on WA’s grain growers. While WAFarmers was able to secure a WA-only exemption for aerial spraying near farm dams and salt lakes, the broader ISCC framework remains poorly aligned with Australian agriculture. It applies inappropriate European compliance assumptions, lacks transparency on premiums, and creates burdens inconsistent with APVMA regulation and WA’s broadacre realities.

Council rejected the flawed LEK report commissioned by the GRDC and urged that it be withdrawn and rewritten



Grains Report cont.

Mark Fowler and Melanie Tolich

to properly respond to the terms of reference, without preconceived bias, with proper sampling, under proper governance protocols and with deeper quantitative rigour.

WAFarmers maintains that farm-level sustainability accreditation protocols must be developed and administered by Grains Australia—grower-owned, levy-funded and internationally credible—rather than outsourced to a private offshore entity that is only interested in European views and interests.

Council also continued to provide input to the development of the industry level Grains Sustainability Framework (GSF).

Our main concerns here are that growers do not lose control over GSF content, that the GSF be administered and funded by Grains Australia, and be driven by measurable benefit to growers – as opposed to the trade, government or society at large.

GRDC Levy Review, Reserves and Governance Reform

The levy debate intensified in 2025 as growers questioned why GRDC cash reserves have exceeded \$728.5 million and whether GRDC’s plan to spend its way out of this problem is in growers’ best interests. Council drove the joint WA industry submission calling for a temporary levy reduction and a governance reset to prevent unchecked reserve expansion.

The Council also supported a dedicated levy allocation for Grains Australia to reduce duplication and bring transparency and independence to its market-access and policy work.



In 2025, the Council led the national debate on the most consequential governance issue in Australian grains: the need to unwind the failed dual-Representative Organisation (RO) model created in 2015. The Council wrote formally to Assistant Minister Anthony Chisholm outlining how recognising both Grain Producers Australia and Grain Growers Limited as ROs fractured the accountability chain the Primary Industries Research & Development Act 1989 (Clth) depends on. The result has been persistent reserve over-accumulation and a GRDC increasingly controlling the scope and publication of its own reviews.

The Council called for the restoration of a single, democratically elected RO, activation of the levy-payer register, and the introduction of trigger-based levy bands tied to defined reserve thresholds. The message was clear: growers support research, not structural over-collection or opaque governance. The federal minister already holds the necessary tools – through delegated levy instruments, section 143 directions and strengthened SFA guardrails – and the Council will continue pushing until grower voice and accountability are restored to the GRDC system.

GIWA 2035+ Strategy – WA Grower Priorities and Mandate

The GIWA 2035+ strategy process

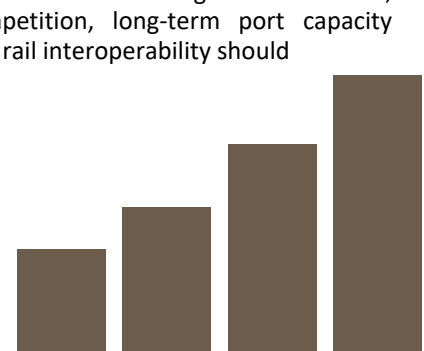
identified several themes with potential, but the draft failed to capture the real structural pressures shaping WA grain production over the coming decade.



The Council emphasised that market access risks now arise primarily from national regulation – Nature Positive reforms, the Safeguard Mechanism, carbon policy, biodiversity obligations and compliance duplication – not simply trade dynamics. Unless these regulatory settings are confronted directly, no strategy will reflect the realities facing WA growers.

Council also warned against strategic over-reach and the duplication of Grains Australia functions. Concerns ranged from modelling transparency to untested assumptions about market direction and the creeping shift toward “value-chain steering” without a clear grower member mandate. The Council reiterated that any whole-of-industry strategy must begin with levy payer priorities, proven comparative advantage, and a direct line of sight back to growers – not consultant-driven visions disconnected from farm economics.

A commercially grounded supply-chain plan remains essential. The Council argued that freight economics, competition, long-term port capacity and rail interoperability should



Grains Report cont.

Mark Fowler and Melanie Tolich

underpin WA's future competitiveness — not aspirational statements or governance expansion.

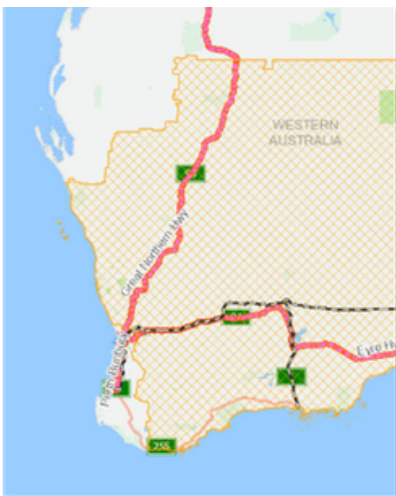
We rejected proposals that would recreate parallel R&D structures in WA and instead advocated for nationally integrated arrangements with transparent metrics, accountability for delivery, and WA-appropriate investment discipline.

WAFarmers will continue to ensure the final GIWA 2035+ strategy reflects the real priorities, risks and commercial imperatives of WA growers, not diluted national assumptions or consultancy abstractions.

Freight, Rail and Port Infrastructure

Freight constraints and costs remained a major concern for growers in 2025, with rising crop volumes placing renewed pressure on Tier 1 and Tier 2 rail lines and the already strained regional road network. The Council highlighted the urgent need for matched public investment to support CBH's Path-to-2033 strategy rollout and to minimise supply chain bottlenecks both up-country and at port.

The \$200 million Agricultural Supply Chain Improvements (ASCI) Program — the centrepiece of grain-freight investment in WA — remains partially delivered but seems increasingly directionless.



The Commonwealth contributed \$160 million on top of the WA Government's \$40 million, and early

works have delivered significant capacity upgrades at many key sites. However, parliamentary and budget papers for 2025–26 show no announcement of a new ASCI round, only a "realignment" of unspent funds (approximately \$46 million carried forward).

This lack of clarity has left critical, shovel-ready upgrades unfunded at a time when crop volumes continue to rise. Without ASCI Round 2 or an equivalent freight-capacity investment stream, WA risks pushing more grain back onto road, with the associated safety risks and elevating freight costs that ultimately weaken our export competitiveness.

Wheat Port Code Review

The Wheat Port Code remains outdated and ineffective, with excessive exemptions and insufficient enforcement. However, unlike in other states, the WA supply chain remains a natural monopoly where one player enjoys significant vertical integration and where there has been limited new competition arise. That is why Council advocated in favour of a new code that applies to all grains, and which preserves competitive access protections for other (including new) supply chain participants. Council does not support the DAFF review finding that the Wheat Port Code be replaced by a voluntary code to be designed and administered by Grain Trade Australia.



Container Stevedoring Charges

Escalating container stevedoring charges continue to erode the competitiveness of WA's export supply chains. Terminal surcharges, opaque fee structures and inconsistent service

quality impact high-value niche markets including pulses, oats and value-added grains. Council engaged with the ACCC and federal agencies, urging stronger oversight, transparent pricing and improved container-handling performance to support diversification and export resilience.

Biosecurity Failures and Emerging Threats



2025 delivered yet another reminder that Australia's biosecurity shield is thinning at the very moment global pest pressures are intensifying.

WA continued to battle incursions and spread of fall armyworm, polyphagous shot-hole borer and barley smut, each exposing weak points in surveillance, early detection and coordinated response.

The year also saw the discovery of Khapra beetle larvae in imported consumer goods on the east coast — a near-miss involving the world's most destructive stored-grain pest and the highest-priority threat to Australia's export markets. Although not established, the detection underscored how easily a single breach can jeopardise WA's reputation and hard-won market access.

The Council raised serious concerns about Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's slow surveillance activation,



Grains Report cont.

Mark Fowler and Melanie Tolich

inconsistent containment measures, and limited alignment with Commonwealth systems. Too often, local response frameworks lag behind international risk profiles, leaving growers exposed to pests that move faster than bureaucracies.

The Council reiterated the need for a fit-for-purpose emergency response fund, and a unified surveillance model that integrates CBH Group, Grains Research & Development Corporation and DPIRD risk models so that threats can be identified, escalated and contained before they become industry-wide failures.

WA's export-reliant grains sector depends on the credibility of Australia's biosecurity system. In 2025, that credibility came under strain. The Council will continue pushing for structural reform, investment in frontline capability and a national strategy that treats biosecurity as a core economic safeguard rather than an afterthought funded from leftover budgets.

Workforce, Training and Skilled Migration

This year the Council also continued its work to secure a dedicated agricultural machinery/harvest migration pathway, reform of seasonal worker rules, and targeted investment in regional training capacity. Workforce constraints of both skilled and semi-skilled workers and the lack of regional housing for service sectors will remain a core advocacy priority in 2026.

Soil Health, Amelioration and Lime Strategy

WAFarmers continues to advocate for transport and planning mechanisms to protect grower access to strategically important lime resources. In our endemically acidic and compacted soils, the gains from amelioration remain among the highest available productivity multipliers — yet state support remains limited and fragmented.

Grain Marketing and Market Access

International markets shifted sharply in

2025. Global grain prices remained stubbornly low, driven by large competing harvests, soft demand in key Asian markets, and aggressive Black Sea exports.

WA growers carried the full brunt of this downturn: high input costs meeting low farmgate prices in an export-dependent state is a brutal combination. The Council continued to emphasise that in years like 2025, trade friction and market-access barriers hurt more than ever.

Geopolitically, the landscape hardened. The return of a Trump administration brought renewed threats of unilateral tariffs, retaliatory trade action and revived U.S.–China tension — all of which can reshape the very markets WA relies on. Australia remains exposed: a single tariff decision by Washington or Beijing can swing barley, canola or wheat values by tens of dollars a tonne overnight. The Council also monitored India's sporadic tariff openings and closings, and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding MRL harmonisation across the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

These pressures reinforce a simple point: WA needs a coherent national grains trade strategy, not ad-hoc diplomacy. Sustainability and traceability requirements are tightening across international buyers, often without clear commercial premiums.

We will maintain our advocacy for strong federal leadership, clarity on market protocols, and proactive engagement with the U.S., China, India and ASEAN blocs, without which, WA's competitiveness will continue to erode.

National Representation – CBH Support for GPA Membership

With national regulation increasingly determining market access, chemical availability, levy governance and sustainability settings, WA growers require strong and coordinated national representation. The Council proposed that CBH transition part of its existing sponsorship into a strategic co-investment in GPA membership on behalf of WA growers.

A baseline contribution of \$50 per grower would ensure WA achieves critical mass and national leverage, with an optional opt-in mechanism at delivery for additional grower contributions. WAFarmers offered to manage communication, governance and reconciliation in partnership with CBH and GPA.

This model would strengthen WA's national influence, reduce duplication and reinforce the grower voice at a time when national decisions increasingly shape the future of the industry.

Meetings, Governance and Representation

The Council met regularly through 2025, with strong attendance and valuable contributions from grower members across the state. Sessions included policy briefings, national consultation updates, CBH and GPA reports, and strategic planning discussions.

The depth of expertise at the table remains one of WAFarmers' greatest strengths, and the Council thanks all members for their time and leadership.

Conclusion

2025 demonstrated both the strength and vulnerability of WA's grains industry. Growers delivered strong production under challenging conditions, yet the national policy environment is moving quickly—and often without regard for WA realities. The Council's work this year helped restore balance, defend scientific integrity and push for structures that protect grower value.

We enter 2026 with clarity of purpose and a united voice. WAFarmers will continue to insist on systems that respect WA agriculture, deliver tangible grower benefit, and uphold accountability across all institutions that derive their mandate from levy payers.



Livestock Report

Geoff Pearson and Melanie Tolich

2025 has been one of the most defining years for Western Australia's livestock industries in recent memory

Hopefully with the turnaround in sheep, cattle and wool prices, the stream of growers particularly sheep producers leaving the industry has slowed but remain wary that markets could slip back to the lows of 2023–24.

Nothing has damaged confidence more than the Federal Government's decision to legislate the phase-out of the live sheep trade by sea. Our position has not shifted, even though the Government was not for turning. Through the "Keep the Sheep" campaign, WAFarmers strongly opposed the phase-out, with over a million dollars spent in the lead-up to the federal election. We have said from the start, and will keep saying, that the trade underpinned not just WA's flock numbers, processors, transporters, shearing teams and regional communities.

The government has been fortunate to roll out their transition during a time when the prices have bounced as without strong demand in the saleyards we would have seen many more farmers load their last ewes onto a truck and close the door to their shearing shed.

Still those who remain in sheep have been disappointed with the roll out of the transition. Producers in every zone have been clear: the package put forward by the Federal Government does not restore confidence, does not keep sheep on farms and does not offer security for the next generation. The rollout has been slow, and the government communication is cumbersome and unclear, causing confusion and adding to the growing level of uncertainty and frustration.

Across 2025 we also faced issues around saleyards and processing facilities. Boyanup saleyards remain under pressure from effluent management costs and a lack of

government interest in underwriting a new facility.



Muchea continues to operate at a loss, racking up around \$1 million in the red in 2024–25, and the downward march of the state's flock, combined with the shift to direct on-farm selling, puts the long-term future of this critical facility in doubt.

Tammin Abattoir closed its doors in early 2025 after years of marginal throughput, removing another key piece of WA's already stretched processing capacity.

In the south-east, Shark Lake Food Group—shut in mid-2024—confirmed it would not reopen in 2025, forcing Esperance and Ravensthorpe producers to freight stock hundreds of kilometres west to find a kill space.

The one light on the horizon came from the north, where the Yeeda Kimberley Meat Company's Broome abattoir—placed into receivership in 2024—was purchased by new owners with plans to refurbish the facility and return it to operation in 2026, offering some long-overdue hope for rebuilding WA's shrinking processing network.

Despite constant government talk about the need for new, modern processing facilities to manage the increases from the loss of live exports, approvals for new abattoirs are harder to secure than ever. Complex environmental requirements, rising energy costs and overreaching conditions imposed by increasingly "woke" local governments are

undermining investor confidence – and consequently, their money. These structural issues can no longer be ignored, and WAFarmers will continue to push for practical, common-sense solutions that keep stock moving and markets functioning.

The WAFarmers Livestock Council strongly supported the continuation of the NLIS Cattle Help Desk and will keep working with the IFS committees, national peak bodies and DPIRD to make sure WA remains protected from FMD, LSD and other threats that could end our industry overnight.

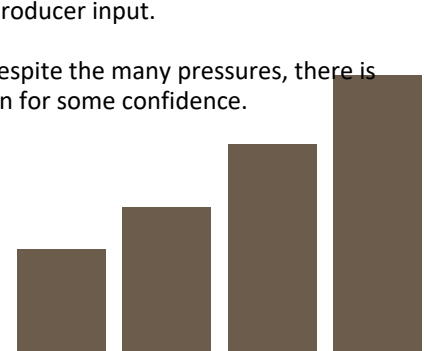
Animal welfare reform also moved ahead. After surveying members and reviewing national positions, the Council endorsed mandatory pain relief for mulesing—something many producers have already adopted.

We also prepared early for the expected overhaul of long-haul transport standards and reinforced our position that livestock inspections must remain with DPIRD, not activist-aligned, ideologically driven groups.

When the State Labor Government committed an extra \$7 million to the RSPCA as part of its election platform, we insisted those funds must not be used for political campaigning against commercial livestock production.

The Livestock Council's policy work this year has been substantial. We updated or introduced policies on biosecurity enforcement, truck wash-downs, virtual fencing, deforestation, firearms, traceability, feedlot approvals and good-neighbour feral animal control. These policies matter: they give us clarity when dealing with governments, processors and national bodies, and they ensure our advocacy is backed by real producer input.

But despite the many pressures, there is reason for some confidence.





Livestock Report

Geoff Pearson and Melanie Tolich

Lamb and mutton prices rebounded strongly in 2025. The cattle market improved, and producers across the Southwest reported the most optimism they've felt in years. Wool prices recovered modestly, and national bodies are finally progressing key pieces of work such as the footrot vaccine and a wool traceability hub. The long-term fundamentals remain strong: the world wants more high-quality red meat and wool than Australia can produce.

I want to thank every council member, zone representative, staff member and producer who contributed to our work this year. Your participation—whether through meetings, workshops, submissions or simply picking up the phone—ensures WAFarmers remains the strongest and most stable voice for WA livestock producers.

The challenges aren't going away. But neither are we.

In 2026 we will continue to defend live export, push for real investment in processing and infrastructure, build sensible policies around animal welfare and biosecurity, and fight for a regulatory environment that lets producers get on with the important job of producing food and fibre for the world.

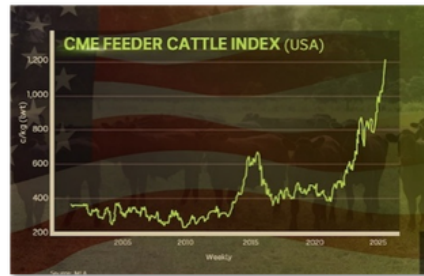
WAFarmers Livestock Council – 2025 Overview

The 2025 year has been one of the most demanding and politically consequential periods for Western Australia's livestock industries in decades. Producers faced the combined pressure of uncertain markets, major policy reform, severe dry spells in some regions, excessive rainfall in others and the ongoing impact of the Federal Government's decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea.

Despite these challenges, the WAFarmers Livestock Council continued to deliver clear advocacy, practical policy development and strong representation on every major issue

issue affecting WA sheep, wool, cattle and dairy producers. Council meetings were held in February (Katanning), July (CSIRO Floreat) and September (Denmark), with strong attendance from producers, industry guests and national peak bodies.

Market Report



WA's livestock markets began their recovery at different points through early to mid-2025, rebounding from some of the weakest prices seen in a decade. The sheep sector saw the sharpest turnaround. After lamb fell to around 670 c/kg and mutton to 340–350 c/kg in 2024, confidence slowly returned from March to May 2025 as supply tightened and seasonal conditions improved. By August 2025, lamb had surged to 1059 c/kg and mutton to 621 c/kg, representing increases of 57% and 80% from their 2024 lows. Sheep numbers continued to shrink across WA, but that reduced supply pushed prices back to profitable levels for the first time in several years.

By August 2025, the WMI had lifted to 1,399 c/kg and 19-micron wool to 1,542 c/kg—representing a solid 13–15% year-on-year gain. Prices continued to climb into late 2025, with the EMI rising for 10 consecutive weeks to reach 1,453 c/kg, the highest level since mid-2022.

However, wool lost ground again as the year progressed, adding pressure to an industry already struggling with the live export transition.

Beef prices rose sharply through 2025, driven largely by global forces rather than domestic conditions.

Strong demand for restocking, tightening supply and favourable seasons saw heavy steers lift more than 20 per cent and processor cows rise by over 30 per cent across the middle of the year. Much of the upward pressure came from the United States, where the cattle herd has collapsed to multi-decade lows and Brazil remained sidelined by a 40–50 per cent U.S. tariff. With American buyers turning heavily to Australia, beef exports to the U.S. climbed strongly, underpinning cow and feeder prices across WA and helping producers offset rising input costs.

For processors, however, the picture deteriorated quickly. The Beef Processor Trading Conditions (BPTC) index fell sharply as co-product revenues weakened, and cattle procurement costs surged. August's BPTC was revised down from 21 per cent to 13 per cent, and September collapsed to just 6 per cent—some of the weakest trading conditions in years. Export returns failed to keep pace with livestock prices, and domestic retail beef rose only modestly, leaving processors unable to pass higher costs down the chain.

The widening gap between strong farmgate returns and shrinking processor margins remains a major structural issue for WA's supply chain, and one WAFarmers continues to monitor closely as part of our broader advocacy on processing capacity and market resilience.

Key Issues

Live Export Transition



Livestock Report cont.

Geoff Pearson and Melanie Tolich

In 2024 the Australian Government legislated the end of live-sheep exports by sea by 1 May 2028 and announced an initial \$107 million transition support package to help producers and supply-chain participants prepare. Over subsequent months the total commitment was revised up to around \$139.7 million to broaden grants, support services and adjustment measures.

By 2025 the transition rollout started to take shape as multiple grant and support programs opened. On 27 August 2025 the Government launched the first round of the \$40 million Supply Chain Capacity Program—offering up to \$2 million per on-farm producer for finishing or feedlot developments, and up to \$5 million per processor for capacity enhancements and infrastructure upgrades.

In early October 2025 a complementary Farm Business Transition Program was opened, providing grants of up to \$75,000 to eligible sheep producers to develop business plans or pivot to alternative enterprises.

Alongside this, the Government committed to establishing support services, a Transition Advocate and a formal co-design process to manage broader supply-chain and regional impacts. For WA producers—the group most affected—these programs represented the first tangible funding instruments under the phase-out.

U.S. Tariffs and Market Dynamics – Impact on Australian Beef and Sheepmeat

The United States' imposition of Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs in April 2025 sent shockwaves through global red-meat markets.

Australia was hit with a flat 10% tariff on both beef and sheepmeat, despite the long-standing AUSFTA arrangement that had previously delivered duty-free access. For several months Australian exporters higher entry costs, renegotiated contracts and faced reduced competitiveness in the world's most valuable meat market. Lamb and mutton exporters were particularly exposed, as the U.S. had become

a premium outlet for chilled lamb cuts, fast-casual dining and retail-ready products. Export volumes dipped, prices softened and confidence wavered.



In November 2025 the U.S. reversed course and removed the tariff on Australian beef, recognising that Australian imports were essential to stabilising U.S. retail prices during a period of domestic supply shortages. The move restored Australia's competitive footing almost overnight. Exporters reactivated forward contracts, processors re-established U.S. programs and the beef sector entered 2026 with a stronger outlook than anyone predicted mid-year. The tariff relief was retroactive, allowing U.S. importers to claim refunds on duties already paid—an unusual but welcome concession that helped drive immediate demand for Australian product.



At the same time, Australia's major competitor - Brazil - was caught in the crossfire. Trump's tariff settings hit Brazilian beef hard, dampening their volumes into the U.S. just as global demand was shifting. Brazilian exporters, who had been aggressively expanding into North America, suddenly faced higher landed costs and slower customs clearance. This created an unexpected opening for Australia: even with the temporary tariff in place,

Australian beef remained a preferred supplier due to consistent quality, traceability and its ability to supply lean trim for burgers and quick-service chains. When the U.S. removed Australia's tariff in November but kept Brazil's in place, the competitive advantage widened sharply.

Unfortunately, the US tariff relief was not extended to sheepmeat. Lamb and mutton exports continue to face the 10% duty, leaving WA's high-value sheep sector disadvantaged relative to pre-2025 trade terms. For producers already burdened by the live-export phase-out, flock liquidation and tight processing capacity, this ongoing U.S. tariff remains a major barrier to rebuilding confidence.

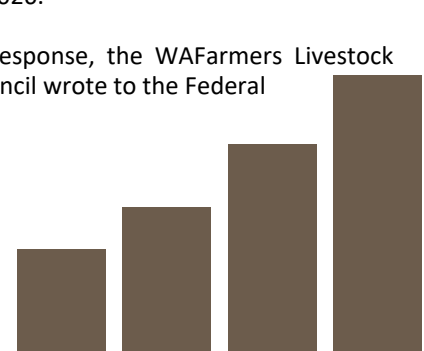
Despite the difficult year, Australia ended 2025 in a stronger competitive position than many expected. The reversal of beef tariffs restored market share and opened new opportunities previously threatened by low-cost South American competitors. However, the persistence of the sheepmeat tariff underscores the need for more competent diplomacy and work to diversify into Asia and the Middle East.

The episode showed how geopolitical shocks in Washington can upend WA farmgate prices in days—but also how resilient, premium Australian product can quickly reclaim ground when global competitors stumble.

Biosecurity & Traceability

Biosecurity remained a top priority throughout the year. Key concerns included footrot detections in sheep entering WA via Kalgoorlie, inadequate penalties for serious biosecurity breaches—including the nationally publicised 62-tonne illegal-import case—and the risk of losing critical support functions as DPIRD proposes discontinuing the NLIS Cattle Help Desk in 2026.

In response, the WAFarmers Livestock Council wrote to the Federal



Livestock Report cont.

Geoff Pearson and Melanie Tolich

Agriculture Minister expressing disappointment with current penalty levels and supported the continuation of the NLIS Cattle Help Desk until a viable permanent structure is established.

The Council also endorsed new biosecurity policies covering truck wash-down expansion, stronger enforcement protocols and “no return to Australia” rules for animals that leave Australian shores, to minimise the risk of disease re-entry.

Animal Welfare Policy Reform

Animal welfare reform was one of the most substantial policy areas in 2025. The Council completed a pain-relief survey which showed over 80% adoption and 75% support for mandating pain relief. Based on these results, the Council passed a new policy to advocate for mandated pain relief for mulesing, then sought Government support to regulate and help inform producers about appropriate products and use. The Minister has since told Parliament that the Government will soon regulate to ensure compulsory pain relief for mulesing.

The Livestock Council also reviewed the Veterinary Practices regulations, with a particular focus on pregnancy-testing accreditation.

WAFarmers undertook early preparation for expected revisions to long-haul livestock transport standards to ensure that stocking density rules remain science based. The Council reinforced its position that livestock inspections must remain with DPIRD—not RSPCA—and passed a formal motion that any State funding increases for RSPCA must be contingent on the organisation not engaging in political campaigning against commercial livestock production.

Saleyards, Processing & Infrastructure

Throughout 2025, pressure intensified on Western Australia’s livestock processing and saleyard infrastructure. Kill capacity tightened significantly, saleyard operations came under

increasing financial strain and environmental regulation became more burdensome, slowing or blocking investment in new facilities. These pressures collided with a sharp reduction in the state’s sheep flock and the shift toward direct on-farm selling, leaving the future of several key market and processing assets in doubt.



Boyanup Saleyards remained one of the most acute issues. Effluent management costs pushed the WALSA lease to the brink of being unviable, while the State Government showed little appetite for underwriting or fast-tracking a replacement facility. Although Capel Shire progressed land acquisition for a proposed agricultural precinct, producers insisted Boyanup must stay operational until a fully funded, functional replacement is secured. In response, our Livestock Council wrote to the Shire seeking clarity on future plans and called for urgent upgrades, including improved flooring, shade, effluent systems and truck turnaround capacity.

In the north, the Muchea Livestock Centre—WA’s primary selling hub—continued to incur losses of close to \$1 million in 2024–25 and relied on Treasury support to remain open. The structural decline in sheep numbers and the growth of direct on-farm livestock sales have raised questions about Muchea’s long-term viability.

Despite this, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining Muchea as WA’s central marketplace and backed efforts to explore alternative income models to stabilise the facility.

Processing capacity was hit even harder when the Tammin Abattoir closed permanently in early 2025 after years of marginal throughput, removing yet

another critical node from WA’s processing network.

In the south-east, Shark Lake Food Group—shut since mid-2024—confirmed it would not reopen in 2025, forcing producers in Esperance and Ravensthorpe to freight stock hundreds of kilometres west to Katanning and other facilities. These closures increased costs, reduced competition and deepened regional vulnerability during peak turn-off periods.

The one piece of positive news came from the Kimberley. The Yeeda Kimberley Meat Company’s Broome abattoir, placed into receivership in 2024, was purchased by new owners who plan to refurbish the plant and reopen in 2026.

While only a modest step in terms of statewide capacity, it represents a rare bright spot in an otherwise difficult year. The revival of the Broome facility offers a glimmer of hope that WA’s processing footprint can be rebuilt—but only if government and industry work together to support long-term, scalable solutions.

Climate, Sustainability & Carbon Reporting

The national climate-policy debate shifted sharply in 2025 as both major political blocs reset their long-term positions.

The Federal Liberal and National parties retreated from their former 2050 Net Zero commitments, signalling a new approach centered on energy security, technological neutrality and protection of regional industries from overreach. Labor moved in the opposite direction, doubling down by legislating a 2035



Livestock Report cont.

Geoff Pearson and Melanie Tolich

emissions-reduction target (alongside its already ambitious 2030 target), placing Australia on one of the steepest decarbonisation pathways in the developed world. With simultaneous 2030 and 2035 deadlines, pressure has intensified on heavy-emitting and trade-exposed sectors—including agriculture—to carry more of the adjustment burden.

At the same time, a major regulatory shift began on 1 January 2025, when large Australian businesses were required to start reporting under mandatory sustainability and climate-related financial disclosure laws. This fundamentally changes the operating environment for farmers supplying processors, retailers and food companies now subject to formal climate reporting obligations. As supply-chain participants move to quantify Scope 3 emissions, producers are increasingly being asked to provide emissions baselines, adopt approved carbon-accounting tools and demonstrate alignment with emerging ESG expectations.

While WAFarmers supports practical emissions reduction, we remain concerned that ill-considered frameworks designed primarily to tick ideological boxes could impose high costs without delivering real environmental or market benefits. In response, the WAFarmers Livestock Council adopted a strengthened Climate, Sustainability & Carbon Reporting Policy Framework for 2025. Priorities include advancing a nationally consistent carbon-accounting system for agriculture, ensuring livestock methane is recognised as a short-lived gas rather than treated the same as fossil-fuel emissions, and supporting producers to baseline their emissions using practical, farmer-ready tools.

The Council remains actively engaged with the Sheep and Beef Sustainability Frameworks to ensure new metrics remain workable, science-based and commercially realistic.

As debate over national climate targets accelerates, the Council's focus is to protect the viability of WA livestock

businesses while ensuring producers are not burdened by unrealistic or duplicative compliance demands.

2025 Policy Discussions

Across 2025 the WAFarmers Livestock Council delivered or endorsed a substantial suite of new or updated policies, including:

New or Updated Policies

- Mandatory pain relief for mulesing
- Long-haul transport readiness and standards review
- Virtual fencing policy
- Biosecurity: truck wash-downs, enforcement penalties, no-return live export contingency
- Deforestation policy aligned with evolving EU and supply-chain requirements
- Firearms and animal-welfare policy updates
- Good Neighbour Policy for feral animal management

Major Advocacy

- Opposition to the live-export phase-out
- Participation in co-design workshops for the transition packageSupport for Boyanup and Muchea saleyard viabilityHighlighting abattoir approval barriers
- Drought and water-security policy
- Carbon-accounting reform
- Continuation of the NLIS Cattle Help Desk
- Conditionality on RSPCA funding

Zones – A State Snapshot

Across the three 2025 meetings, zone reports revealed clear patterns:

- Exiting sheep: widespread across Avon, Merredin, Lakes, Central Great Southern and Esperance
- Water pressure: dams empty in some regions; others too wet to access paddocks
- Cattle optimism: grass-fed premiums, better prices, strong demand
- Wool concerns: contractor costs, low margins and market pressure around mulesing

- Labour shortages: universal and worsening across all commodities

These zone reports directly inform the Council's strategic priorities and advocacy.

At the September 2025 meeting, the Council confirmed the following continuing priorities for 2026:

Animal Welfare

- Mandatory pain-relief rollout and education
- Long-haul transport standards
- Drought and water security

Biosecurity & Traceability

- Secure helpdesk continuity
- Stronger border surveillance
- Support for eID rollout

Supply Chain

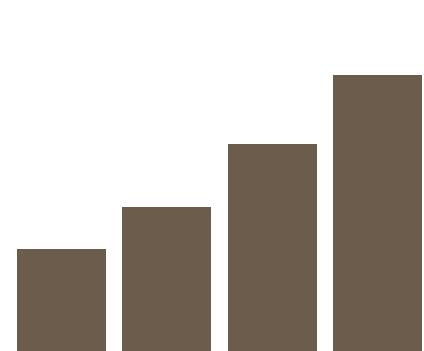
- Boyanup replacement precinct planning
- Reduced environmental barriers for processors
- Advocacy for competitive livestock processing markets

Climate & Sustainability

- Carbon frameworks suited to agriculture
- Recognition of methane's unique profile

Social & Governance

- Protecting industry from activist influence within government
- Restoring confidence in WA's sheep sector



Livestock Report cont.

Geoff Pearson and Melanie Tolich

Conclusion

2025 certainly tested WA livestock producers, but it also strengthened the unity and resolve of the WAFarmers Livestock Council.

Through clear policy, sustained advocacy and strong collaboration across zones and peak bodies, WAFarmers remains the leading voice for the state's livestock industries.

The challenges are significant, but so is the commitment of our Council members who continue to give their time, expertise and leadership to ensure WA livestock producers are represented at every level of government and industry decision-making.



Thank you to our council members

Livestock Council 2025 - Members			
Name	Zone	Name	Zone
Geoff Pearson (President)	Harvey Zone	Makaela Knapp	Miling Zone
David Slade (Vice President)	Albany Zone	Tamara Michalek	Mortlock Zone
Ed Rogister	Albany Zone	Sam Weightman	Vasse Zone
Jeff Murray	Avon Zone	Dr Elizabeth Jackson	Special Expertise
Steve McGuire	Blackwood Zone	Lucy Morris	Special Expertise
Mal Baxter	Central Great Southern Zone	Melanie Tolich	Executive Officer
Tahryn Trevenen	Corrigin Lake Grace Zone	Vacant	North Midland
Mark Walter	Esperance Ravensthorpe Zone	Vacant	Northern
Michael Campbell	Lower Southwest Zone	Vacant	Stirling Zone
Jessie Davis	Merredin Zone	Vacant	Northeastern

Peak Council Representatives 2025		
Name	Peak Council	Position
Trevor Whittington	Cattle Australia	WAFarmers Representative
David Slade	Sheep Producers Australia	WAFarmers Representative
Melanie Tolich	Sheep Producers Australia	Policy Manager Observer
Makaela Knapp	Wool Producers Australia	WAFarmers Representative



Dairy Report

Ian Noakes and Laura Stocker

WA had disappointing opening prices in 2025, similar to the previous year and on track to be around 69 cents a litre or around \$9.30 per kilo for milk solids. However, competition and step-ups in June lifted that to a more sustainable average of 71 cents a litre or \$9.60 per kg for milk solids.

Unfortunately, despite the better prices, WA dairy farmers are still among the lowest paid in Australia, largely due to the high production costs associated with a flat supply curve.

It is therefore somewhat unsurprising that WA now has less than 100 dairy farms with more exits likely in the years ahead unless we can improve the industry's viability.

Our manufacturing and export sector continues to decline in terms of diversity and volume. We do have a small but significant group of small-medium manufacturers who performed very well alongside stiff competition from the larger companies at the RASWA Perth Royal Dairy Awards, and nationally.

We have met with Minister Jarvis each year to update her on the risks to food security of our industry's decline, and to request support to reduce input costs and ensure West Australians can easily source locally produced, fresh dairy products into the future.

APC Dairy Producers Committee

After several years of intense behind-the-scenes work and communication with dairy producers, we have had official approval to establish a Dairy Producers' Committee under the Agricultural Produce Commission. Nominations will be sought for the Committee in January 2026.

Key Activities

WA Dairy Industry Five Year Development Plan

The WA Dairy Industry Working Group (WADIWG) is made up of representatives from: WAFarmers Dairy Council, Western Dairy, Dairy Australia,

DPIRD, Lactalis, Brownes and Bega and has created a Five Year Development Plan for our industry.

Our vision is:

The WA dairy industry has a reputation for best practice, innovation and sustainability, enabling growth and building confidence in our industry to ensure its long-term viability.

WAFarmers Dairy Conference & AGM



The 2025 WAFarmers Dairy Conference and AGM was held on 7 August at the Abbey Beach Resort with the theme *Growing Our Dairy Supply Chain* with an excellent turnout of around 135 attendees.

The Conference was opened by WAFarmers new President Steve McGuire and ably MC'd by Phil Depiazzi.

Topics included: State of WA Dairy Industry, Dairy Export Markets, ADF Policy Update, Growing Dairy Beef Panel, Farm Safety Video, Herringbone Robots, Growing multi-species pastures, plus small manufacturers' network.

The Milk Bottle Award went to Cowaramup farmer Jacqui Biddulph who has been very active for the good of the dairy industry.

It was an excellent event thanks to the organising team, and our sponsors and exhibitors - without which we could not run the Conference: Dairy Australia, DPIRD, Milne Feeds, De Laval, GE, Brownes, Bega, Harvey Water, CSBP, Mitsubishi, FarmWest, Prime Super, Bunnings and SafeFarms WA.

Dairy Pavilion at the Perth Royal Show, 26 September – 3 October



The Dairy Pavilion went well again this year although visitor numbers to the Royal Show were down on last year. Dairy reps will meet with RASWA early next year to discuss the future of the Dairy Pavilion.

This was the first year we had to obtain sponsorship for the Dairy Pavilion, as the Milk Fund is no longer available. We thank Dairy Australia, DPIRD and Western Dairy for supporting us with funds and resources.

Our invaluable educational stall within the Pavilion was hosted by Julie Bettink, Wendy Negus, Sue-Ellen Shaw, Carmel Lyttleton and Michaela Ko. Thanks to all, especially Louise Cashmore for coordinating the Dairy Pavilion again this year.

Advocacy with ADF

The WAFarmers Dairy Council works directly with Australian Dairy Farmers on national dairy issues, and with WAFarmers on cross commodity issues.

ADF has been important to us this year in maintaining a strong Dairy Code of Conduct and developing practical animal welfare responses.



Dairy Report cont.

Ian Noakes and Laura Stocker



Our ADF Policy Advocacy Group representatives are:

- Michael Partridge for the Economics and Trade
- Mason Norton for Farming Operations
- Tammy Negus for People and Communities

Advocacy at a State Level

In WA, our main issue has been the farmgate price of milk. We have sent many media statements and given multiple radio and television interviews explaining the state of the industry and what is needed to improve the viability of our important industry.

We worked on cross-commodity issues with the rest of WAFarmers:

- We criticised the proposed National Water Agreement and argued for a better irrigation system and on-farm water supply in WA instead.
- We supported live export and advocated for a reversal of the government's ban.
- We engaged with government and other stakeholders on the WA Veterinary Practice Amendment Regulations 2024, arguing for a rationale debate to ensure safe, practical approaches to animal welfare.

Priorities for the Year Ahead

Our main concern in the year ahead

is about the low farmgate price of milk in WA, especially when compared to comparable regions of Australia. It is undoubtedly a leading cause of significant numbers of farmers leaving the industry.

Going forward, we will work to improve our dairy export market, including both heifers and dairy products.

We will support our small-medium manufacturers to grow and diversify. And we will continue to build and expand our dairy beef market.

We are looking forward to having the regulations in place to enable the new Dairy Producers Committee to collect fees from dairy producers vital for the advocacy and support required.

Thank you

My sincere thanks go to every member of the Dairy Council for their continued support and ongoing commitment to our industry.

Thank you also to the Board of WAFarmers for their hard work, and to especially to former WAFarmers President John Hassell for his strong support of our Dairy section. I welcome incoming President Steve McGuire and look forward to working with him.

I appreciate the work of the staff at WAFarmers Head Office: Trevor Whittington and Melanie Tolich and offer a special thank you to retiring Dairy Council Executive Officer, Laura Stocker for all her hard work to keep us informed and on track.

All those involved in the WADIWG have shown excellent good will and persistence, and Independent Chair Brad Weir has provided excellent leadership.

Our strong relationship with Western Dairy has enabled collaboration that delivered positive outcomes for all.

Dairy Australia's ongoing RD&E support is also deeply appreciated.

Thank you to my fellow dairy farmers in

WA and across Australia – especially those who have demonstrated their commitment to the industry through membership of WAFarmers - for your support and solidarity.

Finally, I thank the team on our farm for the time, effort and emotional support you provide to enable me to undertake my duties as President of the WAFarmers Dairy Council: my wife Helen and our sons Brad and Steve and their families.



Goodbye Laura, we wish you all the best!!



General Report

Trevor Whittington

2025 provided its fair share of challenges that fell within the remit of the WAFarmers General Section.

While it's obvious that some government policies will not change until the government does, our strong and stable advocacy has positively influenced several important issues.

2026 will be a very active year in terms of general policy and advocacy, partly due to our strategic planning but also because cracks tend to start to appear in the middle years of many 3rd term governments.

As well as the political problem of not having anyone else to blame for policy failures over the last 8-12 years, the large majority held by the current Cook Labor Government (62 of 96 seats) means the Premier has to manage the expectations of his 16 Cabinet Ministers and 45 "backbenchers" who all think they could do the job above them better – and wouldn't mind the pay rise too!

In what often turns into a self-fulfilling prophecy, backbenchers (and sometimes Ministers) get frustrated and become more inclined to agitate and get noticed doing 'something' – leading to policy to address internal unrest rather than for public interest.

Undoubtedly, 2026 will be the beginning of the end of this chapter in WA Government and an important time for the consistent, frank and fearless advocacy WAFarmers has delivered for more than 113 years.

Key Issues

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Western Australia's flawed Aboriginal Heritage laws and overreaching department continued to cause great concern for farmers this year.

In February 2025, Toodyay farmer Tony Maddox was found guilty of breaking the law for repairing an existing creek

crossing on his property without knowing the department had drawn a line around the tributary and registered it as a "site" on the government's Heritage map.



While that needs a lot of scrutiny, a bigger issue is that the department did not visit, consult, or even notify Mr Maddox of the registration - or the hundreds of other landowners along the waterline who now need Ministerial approval to do almost anything on parts of their properties.

WAFarmers joined with other rural bodies to establish a WA Heritage Legal Fighting Fund to help Mr Maddox obtain proper legal support and ensure this landmark test case doesn't become a precedent used to impose another unreasonable burden for farming on private land.

The Maddox case is an important reminder of the need for strong advocacy to stop the creeping dilution of property and water rights and WAFarmers will continue that fight.

State Election Result

The 2025 State Election confirmed that regional Western Australia remains the forgotten constituency of the current Labor government, with minimal seat movement outside Perth. Despite a modest Liberal rebound in the Southwest and strong Nationals performance in the Wheatbelt, the urban vote secured a 3rd term for the ALP government.

For WAFarmers, it means we are likely to see continued policy creep in many areas that can have a negative impact

on our members including environmental protection, heritage, water rights, energy prices, biosecurity, and regional resourcing.

Federal Election Result

Federally, the Albanese government was returned with a reduced majority, buoyed by inner-city Green preferences but losing ground across regional Australia.

The result underscored the growing divide between metropolitan environmental policy and practical rural economics. WAFarmers' advocacy—particularly around the live export ban, superannuation tax, and farm emissions policy—remains essential in holding Canberra accountable to regional producers.

Firearms Act Rollout

The rollout of the hastily enacted Firearms Act was chaotic as predicted, with the Licensing Portal and MyID system failing on day one.

The ALP majority Legislative Council Standing Committee's Report 51 vindicated industry concerns, noting that the government can improve some issues with immediate administrative fixes rather than having to undertake slow legislative overhaul. WAFarmers and the WA Firearms Community Alliance jointly briefed the Minister for Police, identifying reforms that could be implemented over summer to reduce red tape and provide clarity for primary producers.



General Report cont.

Trevor Whittington

Pushback on Wind Farm Expansion

The year saw growing community resistance to the unchecked spread of large-scale wind and transmission projects across prime farmland.

WAFarmers led the call for a moratorium on new wind and transmission corridor approvals until a full cumulative impact assessment is completed. The organisation urged the government to ensure renewable targets do not come at the expense of agricultural land security, visual amenity, and livestock operations.



Super Tax Campaign success

One of the biggest wins of the year was the successful campaign against the proposed Superannuation Tax changes that would have unfairly penalised farmers' self-managed funds and land-holding structures.

WAFarmers' submission and joint NFF advocacy helped expose the inequities of the proposal, forcing Treasury to amend the plan. It demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated farmer-led advocacy.

WestRail Buyback Stalled



Despite early signs of progress, the WestRail buyback and freight infrastructure reform stalled this year, with no clarity from Treasury or the ERA on valuation methodology.

WAFarmers' motion for an immediate review of network access pricing remains active, with calls for charges to reflect the lease's remaining life and true asset condition rather than theoretical rebuild values.

Lack of a Drought Policy

For yet another year, Western Australia operates without a coherent State Drought Policy. While the Commonwealth continues to fund Drought Hubs and resilience grants, no state-led framework exists to guide preparedness or recovery.

WAFarmers' Drought Roundtable exposed the gap and called for the reinstatement of the Farm Water Supply Scheme and the creation of a permanent Drought Management Office within DPIRD.

DPIRD Headquarters Relocation

After years of uncertainty, the State Government finally announced a plan to house DPIRD metro operations in Cannington, Wanneroo and Jandakot – breaking its earlier promise of one central building at Murdoch.

WAFarmers has labelled the move a missed opportunity, with the so-called "new headquarters strategy" effectively cementing DPIRD as spread across an increasing number of sites.

Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

Despite repeated assurances, there has been no movement on state biosecurity or animal welfare legislation since consultation in 2023.

Producers remain without a modern legal framework that balances welfare standards with practical farming realities. WAFarmers has maintained pressure through the Livestock Council and the National Farmers' Federation to ensure future laws reflect science, not ideology.

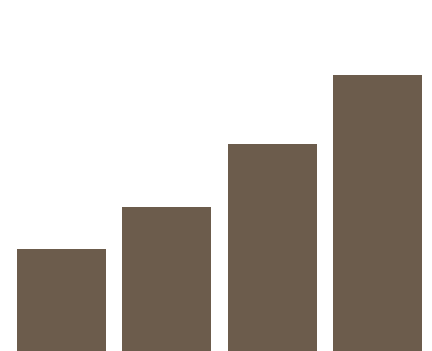
DPIRD Budget and capacity woes

The Department of Primary Industries and

Regional Development (DPIRD) remains financially constrained, with forward estimates showing real-term cuts of nearly 12 per cent to its research and biosecurity programs between 2022–23 and 2026–27. The department's total appropriation is projected to fall from around \$460 million to just under \$410 million, even as inflation, wage rises, and emergency response costs climb.

Within that, the agricultural research and innovation division is expected to lose roughly \$15 million in operating funds, while biosecurity allocations shrink by about \$10 million.

It is imperative that the department is adequately funded, especially in the areas of research biosecurity, to ensure Ministers and industry receive the best advice based on local empirical evidence. As this capacity gets reduced, decision-makers are more inclined to rely on external advice – which is often outdated, not local, and partisan (i.e. ideological).



Media and Profile

To be an effective advocacy body, an organisation needs to cut through the noise by demonstrating insightful analysis, offering practical policy solutions, telling truth to power, and perhaps most importantly, being 'on the radar' of those making and influencing the decisions.

WAFarmers has a long and proud history of standing up for the interests of its members and their communities through direct advocacy and strong media presence.

The Dry Farmer Articles 2025

- Captain Jarvis and the Great Farming Mirage
- How to Become an Amateur Meteorologist
- The Two Matts
- The Road to Ruin – How Australia Lost Its Manufacturing Mojo
- Regenerative Agriculture: When Ideology Trumps Agronomy
- GRDC Review: Time to Prove Value for Money
- The Great Australian Skills Black Hole
- Comrades, It's Time to Go After the Capitalist Class
- Why Do All Roads for Migrants Lead to the Big City?
- Minister Jarvis: A Modern Major Minister
- Do No Harm and Hear the Other Side
- India's Economic Awakening: The Gamechanger for WA's Sheep Industry
- New WA Firearm Laws: What You Need to Know
- Trump's Tariffs Will Hurt American Farmers
- Universities: The Last Woke Holdout
- Liar, Liar, Nation on Fire: Why We Keep Electing Serial Fibbers

- Heritage: Can't You See It? It's Everywhere
- Keeping the Family Silver — or Hoarding Rusted Relics
- Throwing Good Money Overboard – WA Government's Aquaculture Obsession
- When Clean Green Turns a Blind Eye to What's Natural
- Burning Our Way Through Bushfire Volunteers
- The Nats Need to Cut the Pork
- Time to Turn Service WA into the Cloud Service WA
- \$7.2 Billion for a New Kwinana Port
- \$134 Million to Unlock Industrial Land and Create Jobs in Collie
- Time for the Animal Activists to Face Facts
- Pork-Barrel Politics and Empty Promises
- WA's Green Power Grab: The Kalbarri Hydrogen Farce and the Rights of Landholders
- Goldilocks and the Three Energy Realities: Why Fossil Fuels Still Rule the World
- The Fate of Sheepskins: A Byproduct in Crisis
- When the Sheriff Comes for Your Super
- Ring Ring Ring Ring
- When the Facts Change: In Praise of Politicians Who Pivot
- From Monsoons to Merredin: Can Mahindra Crack the Aussie Ute Market?
- The Climate of Climate Change Has Changed
- Climate Data and Wheatbelt Wisdom: Reading Between the Rainfall Lines
- Keep the Sheep: How We Roared While Canberra Slept
- Greta: The Island of Green Dreams
- From Street Stalls to Streaming Stars: Asia's New Consumer Class Is Hungry for More
- The Science Is Settled – Not So Fast

- The Great Regional Disconnect: Why the Only Towers Getting Funded Are the Ones That Don't Make Calls
- The First In, Now the First Out: Why Farmers Are Leading the Retreat from Net Zero
- The Road to Ruin Is Down Highway 2035
- The Two Matts vs the Bureaucratic Machine
- Captain Jarvis Will Go Down in History
- Can Captain Jarvis Navigate Without a Polling Compass
- When Canberra Grabbed the Timeclock



Media and Profile cont...





Membership & Events

Melanie Tolich

WAFarmers membership numbers declined slightly through 2025 and although our membership retention rate declined by 3% from 98% in 2024, a 95% retention rate is deemed high according to industry standards.

For WAFarmers, who is only as strong as its membership base, retention of our existing members along with new member growth remains core business for the organisation, with the WAFarmers team working diligently to deliver and communicate our relevance as a member-driven farm advocacy body.

Farmers joining as members cements the value of WAFarmers as the peak advocacy body for voicing farmers positions on what can only be described as anti-farming policies. WAFarmers strength is demonstrated in its membership numbers, the more members we have, the more attention we receive from government.

45% of our current Members joined more than 50 years ago.

WAFarmers relies heavily on membership revenue to enable membership fee contribution to the national peak bodies for farm advocacy, including National Farmers Federation (NFF), Grain Producers Aust (GPA), Wool Producers Aust (WPA), Sheep Producers Aust (SPA), Cattle Australia (CA), Aust Dairy Farmers (ADF), Aust Live Exporters Council (ALEC). Critically, being a financial member of these peak bodies provides WAFarmers with a voice at the national table where many of the decisions that impact farm profitability are made and further provides access to further advocacy resources.

“2025 saw the NFF operating in one of the most demanding federal policy environments in a decade. With major national debates underway across taxation, workforce, trade, climate, biosecurity, drought, telecommunications and the future of regional Australia, the NFF continue to act as agriculture’s peak national voice, coordinating State Farming Organisations (SFOs) and commodity groups to deliver cohesive, sector-wide advocacy”

John Hassell
NFF Vice President & WAFarmers Immediate Past President

As was the case in 2024, WAFarmers Executive in 2025 continued to drive relevance through our media streams with delivery of a weekly page in the Farm Weekly featuring commentary on time sensitive policy issues that have ability to effect on farm sustainability and profitability. Effective media remains a powerful tool for attracting and retaining membership.

The WAFarmers Board and Management is continually looking to evolve our interaction and communication process to endeavour to meet the changing needs for our membership demographic. Engagement across numerous age and gender demographics is a challenge and requires the right balance to ensure that inclusivity is demonstrated across all demographics.

14% of our current Members joined in 1953 and 12% joined in 1968.

As WAFarmers embraces the changing habits of its membership base, the WAFarmers membership portal, which is accessed through the WAFarmers website, went live late in 2024.

Members can now easily login, update and pay their membership directly online and potential members can join and pay immediately and online, completely digitalising and streamlining the membership renewal and application process. The Board are now exploring how the portal can be expanded to capture members views on policy issues in real time to enable agile and inclusive policy development.

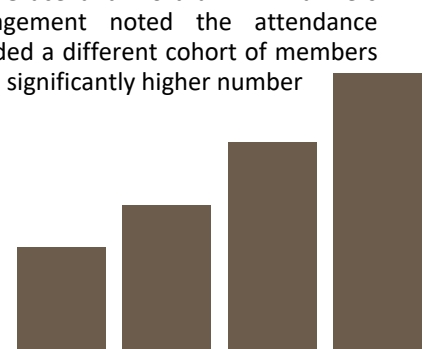
We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our members, for your continued support. Any membership organisation is only as strong as the members that support it. If you have any issues that you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to pick up the phone or send us an email. We are here to listen, support and endeavour to do our best to resolve any issue raised. We hope that 2025 treated you well and we wish you the best for a productive 2026 farming season.

Events

WAFarmers Board pivoted its member engagement strategy in 2025, reallocating financial resources from field day activations towards regional roadshows that included member engagement dinners.



The team hit the road in the first week of February 2025, engaging with over 200 members across events held at Pingelly, Katanning, Albany, Esperance, Lake Grace and Northam. WAFarmers Management noted the attendance included a different cohort of members and a significantly higher number



Membership and Events cont.

Melanie Tolich

of engagement opportunities than the team would experience at field day events.

During 2024, the WAFarmers Board made the decision to hold the WAFarmers Conference every two years and the AGM's annually in accordance with the WAFarmers constitution. This allows for AGM business to be conducted annually as required under the Incorporated Associations Act but does not require the large expense of holding a each year. In 2025 WAFarmers held an AGM event only with the large conference event Grains & Livestock Forum – "Seed Feed Breed" being held regionally in Albany on 25 and 26 June 2026.

The WAFarmers AGM's (WAFarmers, General Section, Grains Section and Livestock Section) and member dinner was held on Friday 21 March 2025 at the QT Hotel, Perth. Attended by over 60 growers the AGM's sparked healthy discussion from the floor across grains, livestock and general issues which continued into the member dinner session at the conclusion. We received positive feedback on the event and will look to hold a similar AGM event in March 2026.

The 2025 WAFarmers Dairy Conference and AGM was held on 7 August at the Abbey Beach Resort with the theme Growing Our Dairy Supply Chain with an excellent turnout of around 135 attendees. The Conference was opened by WAFarmers new President Steve McGuire and ably MC'd by Phil Depiazzi. Topics included: State of WA Dairy Industry, Dairy Export Markets, ADF Policy Update, Growing Dairy Beef Panel, Farm Safety Video, Herringbone Robots, Growing multi-species pastures, plus small manufacturers' network. The Milk Bottle Award for 2025 went to Cowaramup farmer Jacqui Biddulph who has been very active for the good of the dairy industry. It was an excellent event thanks to the organising team, and our sponsors and exhibitors - without which we could not run the Conference: Dairy Australia, DPIRD, Milne Feeds, De Laval, GEA, Brownes, Bega, Harvey Water, CSBP, Mitsubishi, FarmWest, Prime Super, Bunnings

and SafeFarms WA.

The Dairy Pavilion at the Perth Royal Show under the guidance of Louise Cashmore (Reality Consulting) was again received really well in 2025 although visitor numbers to the Show were down from 2024.

With the WAFarmersFirst Milk Fund no longer available, 2025 was the first year that WAFarmers had to obtain external sponsorship to fund the Pavilion. We thank Dairy Australia, DPIRD and Western Dairy for supporting us with funds and resources. Our invaluable educational stall within the Pavilion was hosted by Julie Bettink, Wendy Negus, Sue-Ellen Shaw, Carmel Lyttleton and Michaela Ko. We extend our sincere thanks to all those involved in making the Dairy Pavilion activity successful. Dairy representatives will meet with RASWA early next year to discuss the future direction of the Dairy Pavilion.

In closing for 2025, WAFarmers cannot hold or participate in the above outlined events without the support of our corporate and event partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for their ongoing support in helping us to run these member events that are a great avenue for information on factors affecting on farm profitability but additionally provide opportunities for networking and engagement.

We hope to see you at our events in 2026!



**WAFARMERS GRAINS & LIVESTOCK
CONFERENCE 2026**
SAVE THE DATE

"SEED FEED BREED"

Join WAFarmers in Albany on the 25th and 26th of June for our two-day event "SEED FEED BREED" to explore the issues and innovations in supply chains from paddock to port

25 - 26TH JUNE 2026

DAY 1: BUS TOUR

DAY 2: RETRAVISION STADIUM, ALBANY WA



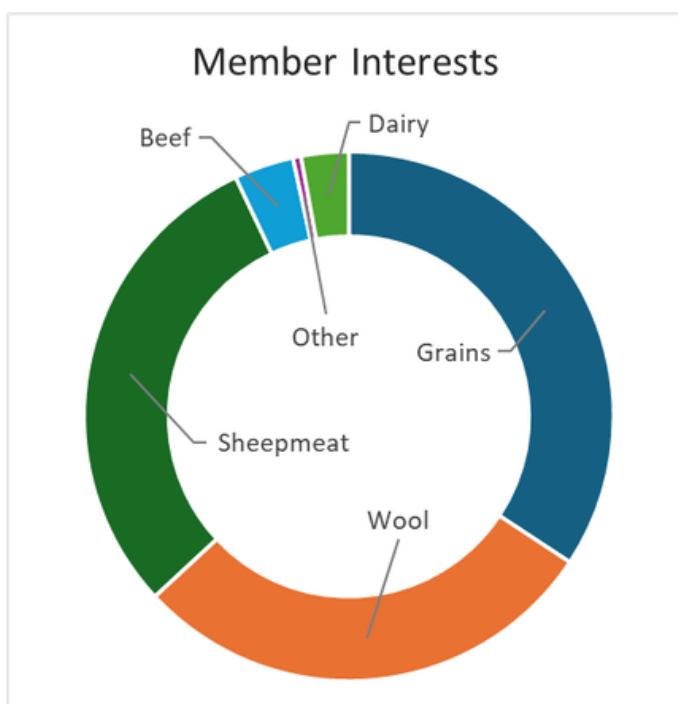
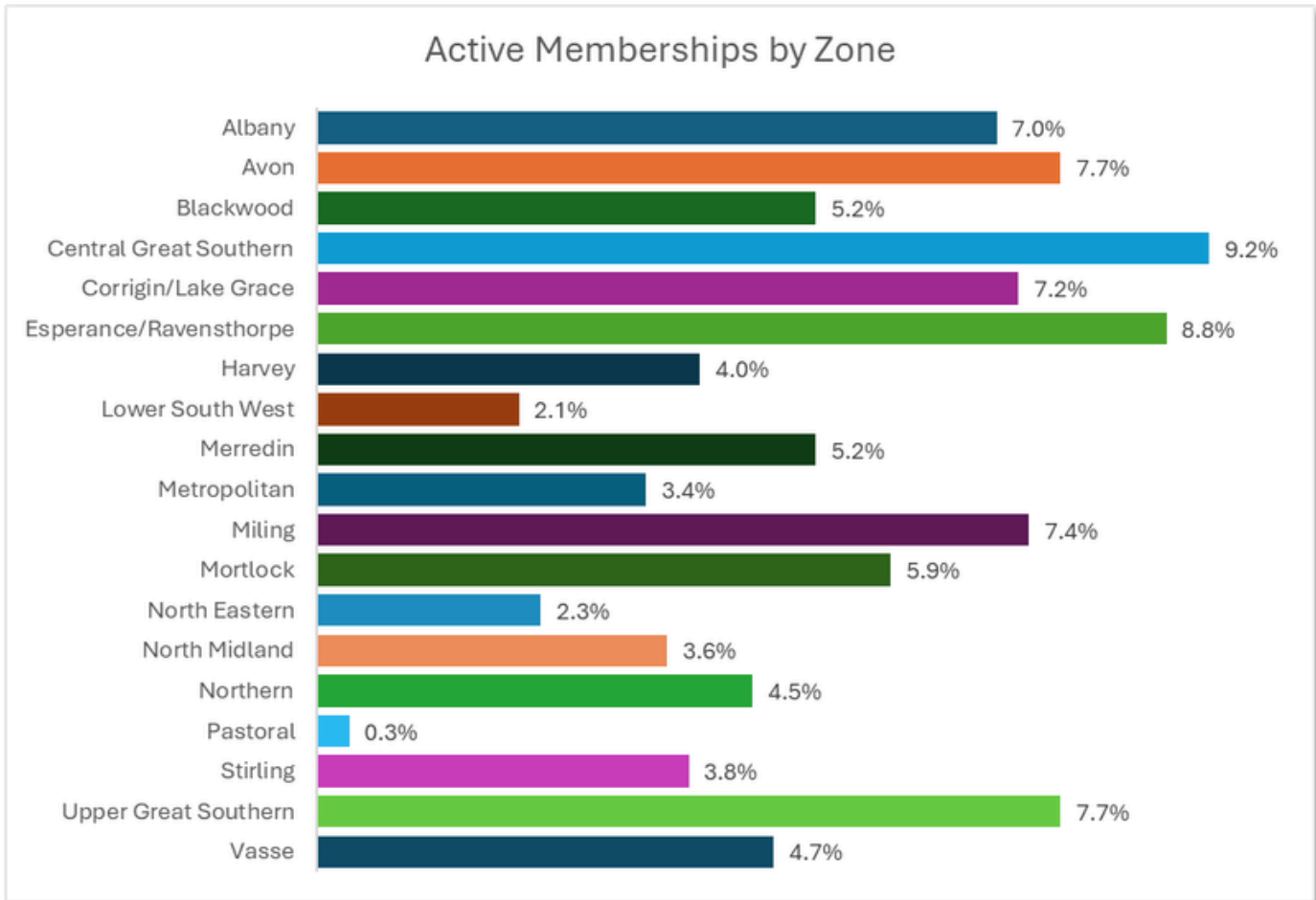
PROGRAM & BOOKING COMING SOON



WAFARMERS

Our Members

The chart below demonstrates the diverse locations Western Australia's farming communities who support and guide WAFarmers through membership.



Member Interests

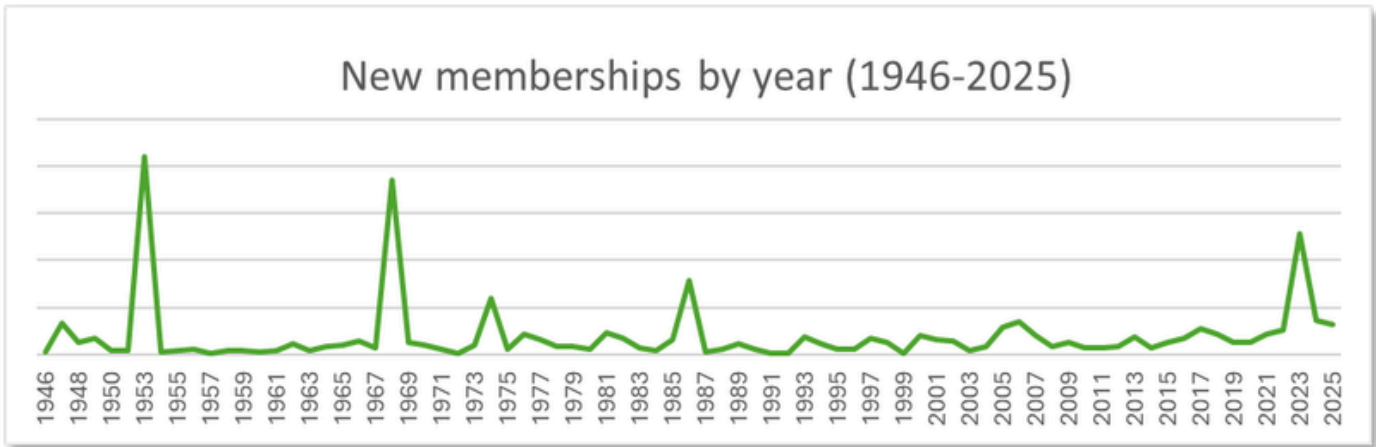
The profile section of our online portal invites Members to identify as many areas of interest as they would like.

The chart to the left shows the proportion of Members who selected each area of interest, from those who have identified at least one.

Grains	34.3%
Sheepmeat	29.9%
Wool	28.8%
Beef	3.6%
Dairy	2.9%
Other	0.5%

Our Members cont...

The graph below confirms the value of WAFarmers on a political level and reminds us of some of the big issues we have confronted on behalf of WA's farming families and regional communities



So, what were the big things happening in agriculture at around the time of historical spikes

- 1953:** National agricultural policies touted. WAFarmers opened head office on Adelaide Terrace.
- 1968:** Wool price collapse and reserve pricing. Wheat quotas and overproduction pressure.
- 1986:** The Environmental Protection Act 1986. Marketing board reform and deregulation.
- 2023:** Federal Government bans live sheep exports. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act repealed.

<p>“Secure” “Consistent” “Strong”</p>	<p>132 of our current Members joined more than 77 years ago!</p>	<p>45% of our Members have been Members for longer than 50 years!</p>
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Of the current Members that have completed their farming profile on our online portal, the pie chart to the left is a pictorial representation of the major types of farming being undertaken.

The raw data is below:

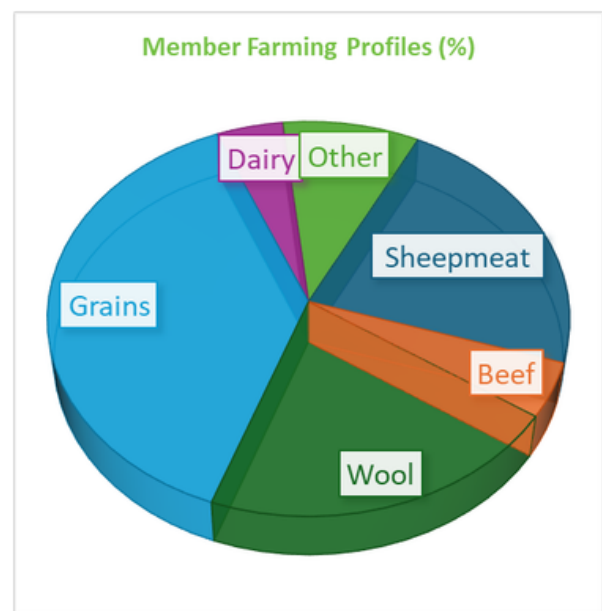
Grains 47.4%

Sheepmeat 22.4%

Wool 21.2%

Beef 4.5%

Dairy 4.5%





NFF Report

John Hassell
National Farmers' Federation Director

2025 saw the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) operating in one of the most demanding federal policy environments in a decade.

With major national debates underway across taxation, workforce, trade, climate, biosecurity, drought, telecommunications and the future of regional Australia, the NFF continued to act as agriculture's peak national voice, coordinating State Farming Organisations (SFOs) and commodity groups to deliver cohesive, sector-wide advocacy.

Economic, Tax & Farm Business Policy



The Economic & Farm Business Committee led a sustained national campaign opposing the Federal Government's proposal for an unrealised capital gains tax on family farms—a reform that would have devastated intergenerational succession planning. With strong support from WAFarmers and other SFOs, the NFF's media and political engagement ensured the proposal became a mainstream national issue, securing bipartisan concern and delaying further progression.

The Committee also completed a comprehensive overhaul of the NFF National Drought Policy, replacing the outdated prescriptive model with a modern risk management framework. The updated policy prioritises resilience, preparedness, mental health access, business planning and national consistency—timely given emerging federal work on a new National Drought Agreement.

Workforce, Migration and Industrial Relations

Workforce shortages remain agriculture's most persistent structural challenge. Throughout the year the NFF focused on:

- Working Holiday Maker (WHM) Reforms – opposing the proposed abolition of the 88-day requirement, which underpins seasonal labour availability for horticulture, livestock operations and regional tourism.
- PALM Scheme Uncertainty – addressing ongoing issues including hours requirements, compliance burdens, escalating costs and visa settings. Updated NFF policy positions were finalised and submitted for member endorsement.
- Fair Work Developments – monitoring and responding to the Fair Work Commission's decision on C13/C14 wage classifications and their impact on farms.

Trade and Market Access

The NFF Trade Committee delivered extensive advocacy across global negotiations and the restoration of disrupted markets. Key areas included:

- Continued engagement on the UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, particularly animal welfare provisions.
- Submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Agricultural Trade with Southeast Asia, supporting diversification and stronger regional supply chains.
- Monitoring the easing of restrictions and improving market conditions in China, with firm advocacy against emerging non-tariff barriers.
- Strengthening alliances through the World Farmers' Organisation and Cairns Group Farm Leaders, focusing on emissions frameworks, labour mobility and environmental standards

- Defending farmer leadership of the Australian Agriculture Sustainability Framework (AASF) to prevent it from becoming a government-mandated compliance tool.

Telecommunications, Technology and Regional Connectivity



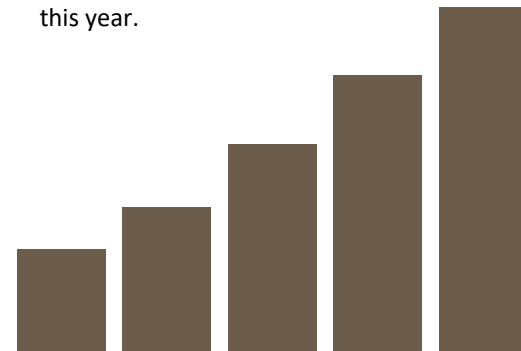
Telecommunications emerged as a national priority due to the shutdown of the 3G network, which has major implications for on-farm safety and operations.

The NFF coordinated national engagement as the shutdown rolled out state by state, identifying risks to:

- machinery autosteer and GPS systems
- farm safety alarms and medical devices
- remote sensors, water monitors and animal collars
- essential voice communications in low-coverage regions

The NFF also:

- Advocated for greater network resilience and redundancy, especially during emergencies.
- Supported expanded funding for the Regional Tech Hub, which assisted more than 250,000 users this year.



NFF Report cont...

- Worked with NBN Co on fixed-wireless upgrades, satellite improvements and infrastructure hardening.

Biosecurity, AgVet Chemicals and Farming Systems

The Farming Systems Committee played a central role in shaping national responses on:

- The proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy, which remains Government policy despite lacking Senate support. The NFF continues to argue that farmers already fund biosecurity extensively through levies and compliance costs.
- APVMA chemical reviews, including paraquat and diquat.
- Animal welfare reforms, including the proposed live sheep phase-out, with strong support for the WA-led Keep the Sheep campaign.
- National work on soil health, input supply chains, RD&E settings and sustainable farming frameworks.

Climate, Environment and Sustainability



The Sustainable Development & Climate Change Committee oversaw:

- The Federal Government's review of the EPBC Act and potential expansions of Weeds of National Significance, with major concerns around new compliance burdens.

- Policy development on methane accounting, livestock emissions, and measurement frameworks.
- Risks associated with locking up productive agricultural land for conservation or offsets, advocating instead for science-based, voluntary models.
- Close monitoring of the Nature Repair Market, emphasising voluntary participation and accurate mapping tools.

Federal Election 2025 – NFF Advocacy and Policy Priorities

With a federal election approaching, the NFF shifted a significant portion of its work toward defining agriculture's national priorities and securing commitments from all major parties.

Key election-focused priorities included:

Secure, Skilled Workforce

- Retaining the WHM 88-day rule.
- Stabilising and simplifying the PALM Scheme.
- Reforming migration pathways to support long-term skilled agricultural roles.

A Fair and Competitive Tax System

- Ongoing opposition to unrealised capital gains taxation.
- Ensuring depreciation, succession planning and investment incentives support family-farm growth.

Strong Biosecurity Systems

- Full federal funding for national biosecurity infrastructure.
- No additional levies on farmers.
- Clearer governance and industry partnership mechanisms.

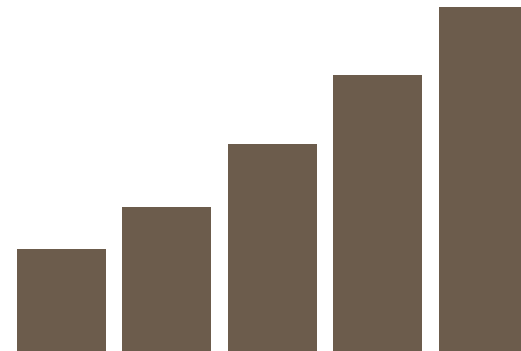
Reliable Telecommunications and Infrastructure

- Mandated rural service standards.
- Emergency-resilient mobile networks.
- Long-term funding for connectivity programs

A Predictable Climate and Environment Framework



- Commitment to voluntary carbon markets.
- Safeguards against using agriculture as a blunt tool for meeting emissions targets.
- Policies that respect food and fibre production as national strategic assets.
- Thriving Regional Communities
- Investment in housing, health, childcare and roads to support workforce attraction and retention.



NFF Report cont...

Throughout the election period, the NFF prepared briefing packs, scorecards and public advocacy campaigns designed to secure bipartisan commitments and ensure agriculture remains politically central.

Across 2024–25, the National Farmers' Federation was deeply engaged across every major national policy discipline: tax, trade, workforce, drought, water, sustainability, telecommunications, chemicals, climate legislation and biosecurity.

The National Farmers' Federation's committee structure provided coordinated, evidence-based responses, while broader governance reforms continued to modernise the organisation.

For WAFarmers, the busy and productive year again underscored the importance of strong engagement with, and representation within, the National Farmers' Federation to ensure Western Australian context and priorities — particularly live export, telecommunications, trade access, workforce supply and biosecurity — remain at the centre of the national agenda and in the forefront of the minds of Members of the Federal Parliament.



2025 Federal Election Scorecard

	Labour	Liberal	Greens
Planning for future food security	Commitment to support the live export industry.	No commitment to support the live export industry.	No commitment to support the live export industry.
Reducing the cost of farming	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.
Partnering for sustainability	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.
A productive & safe workforce	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.
Fair & competitive access to markets	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.
Infrastructure and services for the regions	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.	Commitment to support the live export industry.

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 Authored by Tony Williams, National Farmers' Federation, Barker ACT

Our Committees

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) uses committees to develop and advocate policy positions on issues critical to Australian agriculture.

Our seven Committees and one Taskforce are the 'engine room' of this process facilitating evidence-based, democratic policy formation driven by farmers.

NFF Members nominate representatives to committees and taskforces based on their expertise and interests. Committees and Taskforces meet a number of times throughout each year and whenever an issue requires.

- + Economic Policy & Farm Business Committee
- + Farming Systems Committee
- + Sustainable Development and Climate Change Committee
- + Telecommunications & Social Policy Committee
- + Trade Committee
- + Water Committee
- + Workforce Committee



Financial Report

Melanie Tolich

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Executive Summary

The 2025 Financial Statements have been audited with WAFarmers recording an operating surplus of \$126,963 for the year ended 31st December 2025. WAFarmers Board are pleased to record another year of surplus assisting to build cash reserves and total equity in the organisation to \$1.56m placing us in a very sound financial position.

Revenue

Total revenue for FY25 was \$1.27m declining by \$73k on FY24 total revenue. The major contributor for the decline in revenue was recognised by reduced membership income and WAFarmersFirst Royalties payable on product. The reduced membership income directly relates to policy decision at a national government level that have severely impacted farm viability, particularly in the livestock sector while the reduced commercial income for WAFarmersFirst products is a result of supermarket deletion of the eggs and Hilo milk products and reduced sales of the full cream milk product.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for FY25 was \$1.14m decreased from \$1.40m in FY24. The decrease was recognised by reduced expenditure across a few budget areas including Personnel, Financial Services, Marketing and Executive Expenses. Personnel Expenses the decrease by \$59k was a result of extended periods

between staff changeovers and reduction in salaries paid. Financial Services decreased by \$53k in direct correlation to the reduction of FY24 recognition of impairment on the loss of land and buildings, which was not required in FY25. Marketing Expenses decreased by \$44k, as a result of a deliberate budgeting to not participate in field day activations Executive Expenses reported a decrease of \$102k primarily via a \$60k decrease of AgConnectWA spend which was netted out by decreased income of the same value and secondarily via a reduction in event and president expenses.

Budget FY25

WAFarmers submitted an operational budget for FY25 that budgeted for \$38k surplus, pleasingly due to sound financial management the organisation returned a surplus of \$127k, \$89k over budget, while still delivering valued service to our members.

Given the current political decisions being made are directly impacting the livelihoods of our members and their farm viability, advocacy and strength in numbers is more relevant than ever, so, the reduction in WAFarmers membership income is a major concern for the WAFarmers Board. Equally the Board are concerned that 81% of organisational revenue is derived from voluntary membership, highlighting a significant risk for the organisation despite the current financial strength. The Board continues to seek diversified income streams to alleviate this risk.

Attracting corporate farm membership remained a strategic focus for the Board in 2025 with dinners held to form relationships, however transitioning these into material memberships, still proves difficult. Many corporates believe they have the ear of the government without the assistance of WAFarmers, however in the meantime they continue to reap the benefits of the advocacy work paid for by our members. The Board will continue discussions with the corporate farms sector as they strive to increase awareness of how valuable the work undertaken by WAFarmers is to their business and why a WAFarmers membership is a sound financial investment.

Balance Sheet and Cash Position

The Board and Management in FY25 strategically focused on building cash reserves and equity. We note:

- Total cash held by the organisation is \$1,485,758 with \$305k of these funds being restricted to specific projects and activities.
- Members' funds increased to \$1,567,257 between December 2024 and December 2025 which includes and auditing reallocation of provision liabilities to retained equity surplus (see Table 1 below).
- Total assets decreased by \$101,160 by 31st December 2025, to \$2,404,391.
- Total liabilities of WAFarmers decreased by \$228,126 over the reporting year to \$837,134.

In summary, FY25 was a successful year for WAFarmers financially, building on the previous surplus in FY24. WAFarmers Board and management is confident moving into FY26 that WAFarmers can continue to build on the pleasing financial results from the past six years while further cementing WAFarmers' position as Western Australia's peak, broadacre advocacy group.

The Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc) Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Retained surpluses	Building maintenance reserve	Dairy milk fund reserve	Future advocacy reserve	Total Equity
Balance at 1 January 2024	1,122,635	26,800	50,382	169,186	1,369,003
Surplus for the year	71,291	-	-	-	71,291
Transfer to/(from)	20,047	14,324	(34,371)	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2024	1,213,973	41,124	16,011	169,186	1,440,294
Surplus for the year	126,963	-	-	-	126,963
Transfer to/(from)	(100,494)	14,754	(5,580)	91,300	-
Balance at 31 December 2025	1,240,442	55,878	10,451	260,486	1,567,257

Financial Statements & Audit Report - Dry/Kirkness Chartered Accountants



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of The Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc)

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc) ("WAFarmers"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the declaration by the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of The Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc), has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of WAFarmers financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of WAFarmers in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

DRY KIRKNESS (AUDIT) PTY LTD

B ROTHMAN
Director

Date: 16th February 2026
West Perth
Western Australia

Dry Kirkness (Audit) Pty Ltd
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RCA No. 289109

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Standards Legislation

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2025

FINANCIAL YEAR	2025	2025	2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	\$	\$	\$
INCOME			
Members subscriptions	1,032,287	1,077,675	1,094,322
WAFarmers First Royalties	31,956	64,000	76,147
Sponsorship/Events	86,908	80,000	141,457
AgConnectWA	-78	30,000	59,904
Interest	9,956	14,400	15,639
Commodity Income	41,467	35,000	47,086
Rental Income	21,151	21,600	21,151
Sundry Income	21,720	20,175	24,722
Invest Fund Trust	25,000	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	1,269,625	1,342,850	1,479,928
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Affiliation Fees			
National Farmers	44,000	44,000	44,000
Cattle Council	25,000	25,000	25,000
Sheepmeat Council	13,682	15,000	13,682
Grains Expense Account	45,417	53,333	40,000
WoolProducers	25,000	25,000	25,000
Australian Dairy Farmers	22,027	23,000	22,272
Aust Live Export Council	5,086	3,000	1,685
Sub Total	180,212	188,333	171,639
General Section	3,106	16,500	3,207
Board Expenses	6,863	21,400	11,436
President's Allowance	48,247	49,400	47,874
President's Expense	11,421	19,000	18,496
President Election	0	5,000	0
Motor Vehicle Expense	10,599	10,000	8,840
Events Expense	46,683	49,223	78,501
AgConnectWA Expense	0	30,000	60,489
WAFarmersFirst Expenses	1,155	4,000	7,522
Dairy Industry Milk Trust	0	0	38,537
Commodity Expenses	51,015	96,100	48,594
Commodity Rep Allowances	11,000	10,450	11,000
Zone Expenses	1,598	6,000	5,528
Investment Fund Expense	37,900	0	0
Sub Total	229,641	317,073	340,024
TOTAL EXEC EXPENSES	409,853	505,406	511,663

EXPENSES CONT...	2025	2025	2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	\$	\$	\$
COMMUNICATIONS			
Newsletter Ag E News	2,432	2,520	2,781
Farm Weekly/Countryman	23,820	23,000	23,107
Media Sundry	0	0	0
Sub Total	26,252	25,520	25,888
MARKETING & PROMOTION			
Membership Activity	6,362	11,500	4,832
Marketing Promotion	360	5,000	6,661
Sponsorship/Awards	1,218	5,000	14,667
Field Days & Shows	160	2,000	25,707
Website Development	2,419	2,000	4,052
Membership platform	9,978	6,000	9,428
Hosting Associated Costs	2,223	1,500	1,539
Sub Total	22,540	33,000	66,886
PERSONNEL			
Salaries & Wages	360,806	401,161	404,404
Contract Services/Expenses	46,875	43,500	43,785
Superannuation	43,796	47,578	45,501
Consultants	0	0	14,000
Zone Coordinators Wages	3,350	5,004	4,716
Zone Coordinators Expenses	35	1,000	35
Fringe Benefits Tax	8,674	7,000	11,212
Recruitment & Training	5,315	6,000	8,002
Workers Compensation	3,109	3,793	3,471
Staff Travel & Attendance	39,008	30,000	34,631
Sub Total	510,968	545,036	569,757
OFFICE SERVICES			
Brodie Hall Maintenance Fund	0	29,644	0
Strata and Services Office	37,175	20,000	35,423
Electricity	5,598	6,540	5,114
Office Operating Expenses	22,484	24,000	22,604
Repairs & Maintenance	0	3,000	3,098
General Expenses	15,032	16,480	17,666
Minor Assets	0	2,000	246
Periodicals & Publications	8,236	12,000	12,919
Sub Total	88,525	113,664	97,070
FINANCIAL SERVICES			
Bank Fees & Stamp Duty	5,474	5,000	4,836
Interest Payable TH Peterson Loan	7,250	8,800	10,350
Insurance	13,675	13,000	13,290
Audit Fees	15,623	14,400	14,715
Accounting Fees	2,671	5,000	5,017
Legal Expenses	0	2,000	0
Bad Debt exp	9,180	0	770
Depreciation	30,651	33,800	34,025
Impairment loss on land & bulding	0	0	54,370
Sub Total	84,524	82,000	137,373
TOTAL ADMIN. EXPENSES	732,809	799,220	896,974
TOTAL EXEC EXPENSES	409,853	505,406	511,663
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,142,662	1,304,626	1,408,637
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	126,963	38,224	71,291

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2025

BALANCE SHEET FY25	DEC 2025	DEC 2024
Bank Accounts		
Bank - Operating Account	87,022	390,358
Westpac Cash Reserve	977,742	768,538
Petty Cash	250	250
Zone Bank Accounts	116,151	115,476
AgConnectWA Account	23,125	23,125
Total Bank Funds - Unrestricted	1,204,290	1,297,747
Restricted Funds		
Donations Account	26,828	28,608
WAFF Invest Fund	121,053	128,393
Fundraising live Export	40,927	3,927
Total Restricted Funds	160,928	160,928
Other Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	12,229	31,824
Prepayments	77,936	58,164
Sundry Debtors	2,495	18,580
Total Other Current Assets	92,660	108,568
Total Current Assets	1,485,758	1,567,243
Non-Current Assets		
Property - Brodie Hall Drive Bentley	835,452	840,000
Furniture & Fittings	12,166	13,261
Motor Vehicles	46,094	61,374
Plant & Machinery	11,346	11,971
Telephone System	42	52
Computer Hardware	8,233	7,392
Computer - Software	1,240	198
Investment - Westralian Farmers	2,716	2,716
Investment - Trust Fund WAFF	10	10
Investment - Farmwide	1,334	1,334
Total Non-Current Assets	918,633	1,022,514
Total Assets	2,404,391	2,328,182

BALANCE SHEET FY 25 Cont...	DEC 2025	DEC 2024
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	2,975	19,382
Accruals	43,016	27,200
Sundry Creditors	5,507	0
Total Payable Liabilities	51,498	46,582
Payroll Liabilities		
Payroll Liabilities-Group Tax/Super	12,837	19,531
Payroll Provisions		
Provision for Holiday Pay	47,085	68,909
Prov for Employee Long Service Leave	50,919	54,907
Total Payroll Liabilities	110,841	143,347
Corporate Card Liability	-3,487	3,303
Donations Payable		
Fundraising Account Prov	39,421	2,421
Building Fund	24,303	24,303
Total Donation Liabilities	63,724	26,724
Other Current Liabilities		
Food Alliance Projects	2,509	2,509
Dairy Farmers Project Events	304	304
Conversion & Cleaning	45	45
Total Other Liabilities	2,858	2,858
GST Liabilities	-514	19,539
Total Current Liabilities	224,920	242,353
Non-Current Liabilities		
TH Peterson Trust Loan	440,000	440,000
Subs Received in Advance	119,714	359,157
Other Income in Advance	52,500	23,750
Total Non Current Liabilities	612,214	822,907
Total Liabilities	837,134	1,065,260
NET ASSETS	1,567,257	1,440,291
EQUITY		
Current Surplus	126,963	71,291
Retained Earnings	1,113,478	1,142,679
Building Asset Maintenance Reserve	55,878	41,124
Future Advocacy Reserves	260,486	169,186
Dairy Milk Fund Reserves	10,451	16,011
TOTAL EQUITY	1,567,256	1,440,291

Corporate Sponsors



WAFarmers Supporters



