



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

*We're working for
Western Australia.*

Proposal to make earmarking of sheep, and earmarking and/or branding of cattle, optional

Consultation summary report

May 2021



About this document

This document presents the outcomes of a consultation survey undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) regarding the proposal to make the earmarking of sheep, and earmarking and branding of cattle, optional.

DPIRD would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey for their responses.

Important disclaimer

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1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Earmarking and branding have been used in Western Australia (WA) for more than 100 years, as ways to permanently mark sheep and cattle for the purpose of identifying ownership. While these markings work well as a visual way to determine the original owner of the animals, they do not provide a system for tracing their movements over time, and do not reflect any changes of ownership.

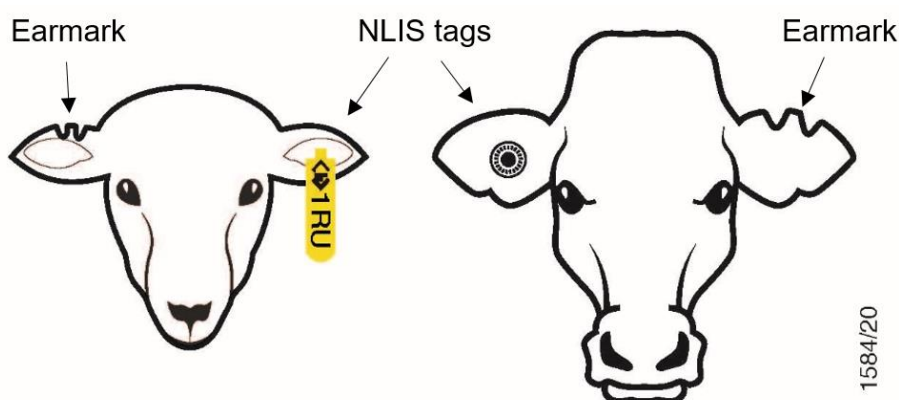
Today, sheep and cattle movements average more than 28,000 a day across WA. It is critical to have a system in place to trace these movements, in order to:

- locate animals quickly when responding to an exotic disease
- prove current ownership, including for lost or stolen stock
- maintain market access by meeting the trace back requirements of customers, both domestically and internationally
- strengthen product integrity and increase consumer confidence by demonstrating that disease and chemical residue events can be traced
- build on the state's reputation as a producer of safe food and animal products.

To achieve these goals, Australia introduced the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). This system allows stock to be traced from their property of birth to any other properties, saleyards, processors or other supply chain centres where they may be moved. In WA, NLIS requirements were legislated in 2005 for cattle, and in 2006 for sheep. Since then, WA producers and industry supply chains have built NLIS into their standard commercial systems for livestock traceability.

Under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013, WA requires NLIS identification of all sheep and cattle **as well as** earmarking of sheep, and earmarking and/or branding of cattle. These two forms of identification are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Examples of earmarks and NLIS tags on sheep and cattle



1.2 About earmarking and branding

In WA, earmarking involves the use of a set of approved pliers to cut two symbols into specified positions on the ear of sheep and cattle, as seen in Figure 1. These positions are allocated and registered on a database maintained by DPIRD.

Figure 2: Cattle brand example



Cattle may also be branded either in place of, or in addition to, earmarking. Two methods have been approved for this purpose: fire branding and freeze branding. Fire branding involves the use of a hot metal branding iron to mark the left rump or left shoulder of the cattle with a series of two letters and a number, as specified and registered by DPIRD. The process for freeze branding is the same as for fire branding, except the metal brand is dipped in liquid nitrogen before application. An example of the result can be seen in Figure 2.

Earmarking and branding are both permitted under current WA animal welfare legislation, when undertaken in accordance with generally accepted husbandry practice and methods.

1.3 About NLIS identification – sheep and cattle

The NLIS has three key elements that are fundamental to its functioning.

1. All livestock are identified by a visual or electronic ear tag or device.
2. All physical locations are identified by means of a property identification code (PIC).
3. All livestock location data and movements are recorded in a central database.

The combination of these elements provides traceability through the supply chain for livestock. Specifically, all sheep and cattle are identified with an accredited NLIS tag or device from their property (that is, their PIC) of birth. Each movement of the animal from property to property is recorded centrally on the NLIS database. Using this information, the NLIS is able to provide a life history of an animal's movements.

In cattle, the NLIS identifier is a radio-frequency identification device (RFID) in-ear tag or rumen bolus. This is an electronic tag that is used to record the movement of individual cattle, and can be read visually or by using a scanning wand.

In sheep, the NLIS tag on the animal's property of birth is a visual ear tag, colour coded to indicate year of birth, and with the breeder's PIC or (more usually) brand printed on it. When sheep are sold or moved from a property they were not born on, a pink post-breeder tag is applied prior to being moved, to reflect the owner's brand or the PIC of the property they are now on. NLIS electronic tags, which function in the same way as those used for cattle, can be used instead of the visual tags.

2 The proposal

Now that the NLIS is well-established in WA as a system for identifying and tracing the ownership and movement of livestock through the supply chain, the need for earmarking and branding has reduced. Consequently, DPIRD has proposed that earmarking and branding of stock be made optional.

Implementing this proposal would involve amending the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 to remove the mandatory requirement for the earmarking of sheep, and earmarking or branding of cattle.

If this occurs, individual sheep and cattle **owners will be able to continue to earmark or brand their stock, should they wish to**. DPIRD will continue to manage and maintain the integrity of the stock brands and earmark databases to support these processes. However, owners who choose to cease earmarking or branding their stock are able to do so.

The other implication of the proposed changes relates to the NLIS requirements for cattle. The current regulations require that cattle must be fitted with an NLIS device before they leave a property. Under the proposed change, cattle will also have to be fitted with an NLIS device:

- in the South West land division, before they reach six months of age or before they first leave the property, whichever occurs first
- outside the South West land division, before they reach 18 months of age or before they first leave the property, whichever occurs first.

There would be no changes to the current mandatory NLIS tagging requirements for sheep, being:

- a year of birth coloured tag in the left ear (male) or right ear (female) on the property of birth by six months or prior to leaving the property, whichever occurs first
- an additional pink tag in the earmark ear prior to leaving any other property.

3 Consultation process

Before DPIRD proceeds with a proposal such as this, it is important to consult with the WA community and industry to hear their views and understand the potential impacts of the change.

To seek input on whether earmarking of sheep and earmarking/branding of cattle should be made optional, an online survey was held on DPIRD's [Talking Biosecurity engagement platform](#) from 17 November to 22 December 2020.

The communications campaign around the consultation involved a mail-out to all WA



registered sheep and cattle owners, an email to registered owners, media releases, two radio interviews, social media posts and advertising, and print advertising.

Before completing the survey, participants were asked to read the:

- [consultation paper](#), which explained the proposal, provided relevant background, and discussed the potential benefits and disadvantages of making the change
- [frequently asked questions](#), which provided responses to many of the common queries regarding this topic.

Participants were able to ask questions related to the consultation on the [survey home page](#), which were responded to by DPIRD. Questions and responses were publicly visible. Links to relevant information on NLIS and animal welfare were also provided on the survey home page.

Those wishing to make a submission could then follow a link to complete the survey, which asked:

- whether they were making the submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation
- their name and, where applicable, the name of their organisation
- whether they supported, or did not support, the proposal to make the earmarking of sheep optional and why
- whether they supported, or did not support, the proposal to make the earmarking and/or branding of cattle optional and why
- which sector(s) applied to them, of the following: cattle owner, sheep owner, industry body, supply chain member, government agency, community, veterinarian, animal welfare group or other
- their postcode.

Participants were also asked whether they consented to have their name and submission made publicly available at the conclusion of the consultation process.

Additional stakeholder group information was provided via the site registration.

4 Results

4.1 Overview of survey respondents

A total of 574 submissions were made during the consultation process, including:

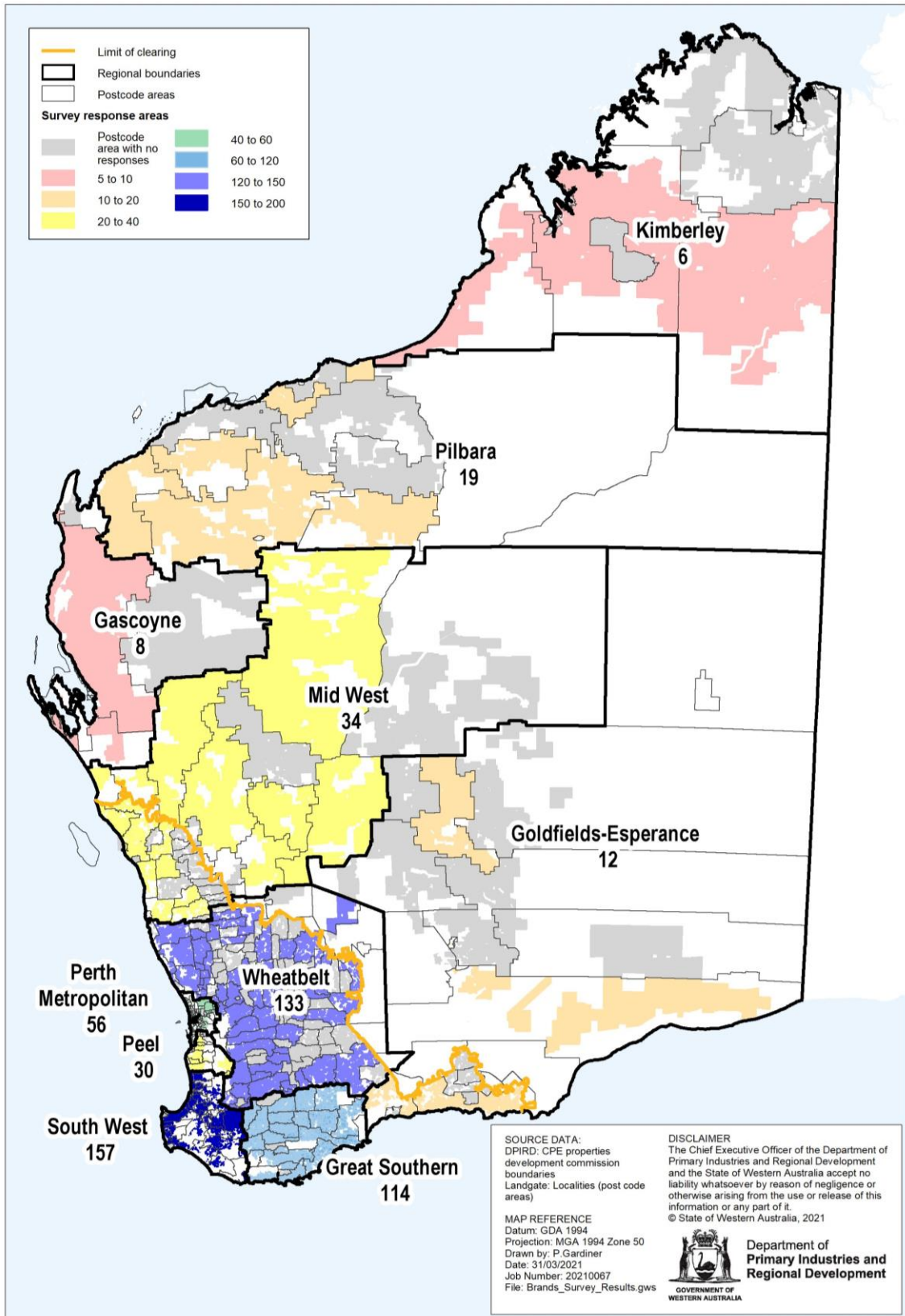
- 543 responses to the survey, completed via the Talking Biosecurity website
- 31 responses from people who could not access the online survey and so provided their input to DPIRD over the phone, in person, by letter or via email.

A list of respondents who consented to having their names made publicly available is provided in Appendix A.

Stakeholders from every region of WA participated in the survey. Figure 3 illustrates the number of responses received from each region, with shaded areas showing which postcodes these responses were submitted from. The 'limit of clearing' line indicates where the agriculture/cropping area ends and the pastoral region/rangelands begin.

Of the 574 respondents to the survey, three did not provide a postcode and two provided postcodes that do not exist. Therefore, the number of responses from each region in Figure 3 sums to 569. A further six respondents provided postcodes associated with a PO Box or for administrative use only; these respondents were allocated to the region in which the PO Box or administration is located.

Figure 3: Survey responses by region



From Figure 3, it can be seen that the highest proportion of responses came from the South West, representing 27% of the total number received. The second largest number of responses was from the Wheatbelt (23%), followed by the Great Southern (20%). All other regions accounted for 10% or less of the total number of responses; specifically, Perth Metropolitan (10%), Mid West (6%), Peel (5%), Pilbara (3%), Goldfields-Esperance (2%), Gascoyne (1%) and Kimberley (1%). All other responses without valid postcodes also represented one per cent of the total.

4.2 Level of support for the proposal

Overall, 64% of survey respondents supported the proposal to make earmarking of sheep optional, while 33% did not. Three per cent of participants asked to have their response to this question withdrawn, as it did not apply to them. While the total number of responses differed slightly for the proposal to make the earmarking and/or branding of cattle optional, the proportions of responses for each category were approximately equal. A summary is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Level of support for the proposal

Question	Supported	Did not support	Not applicable	Total
Do you support the proposal to make earmarking of sheep optional?	369 (64%)	189 (33%)	16 (3%)	574 (100%)
Do you support the proposal to make earmarking and/or branding of cattle optional?	365 (64%)	189 (33%)	20 (3%)	574 (100%)

These results indicate that overall, the majority of participants supported the proposal to make the earmarking of sheep, and earmarking and/or branding of cattle, optional.

Results by region

The level of support for the proposal varied by region. As seen in Figures 4 and 5, participants in the metropolitan (Perth and Peel) and southern agricultural (South West and Great Southern) regions were largely in favour of the proposals. In contrast, most in the northern pastoral regions of the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Mid West were opposed. The majority of the Wheatbelt and the southern pastoral region of Goldfields-Esperance were in support but by a small margin.

Figure 4: Responses received to the proposal to make the earmarking of sheep optional, by region

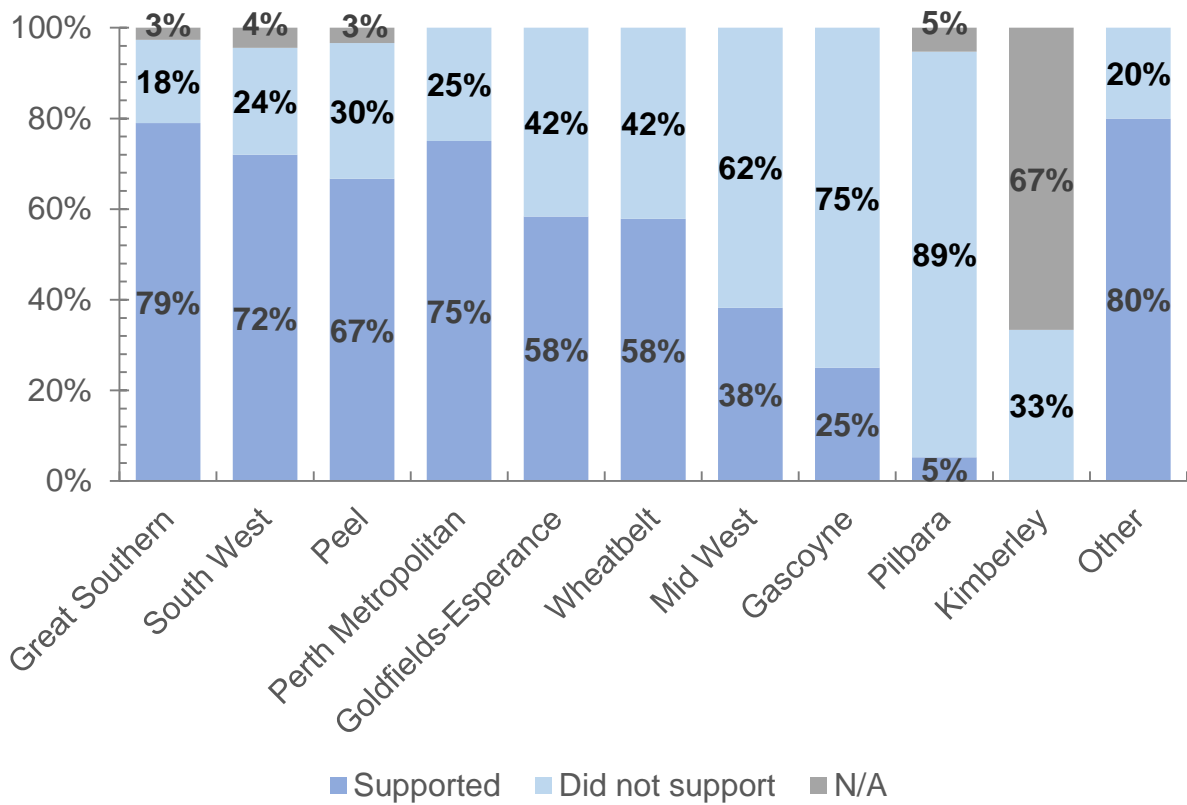
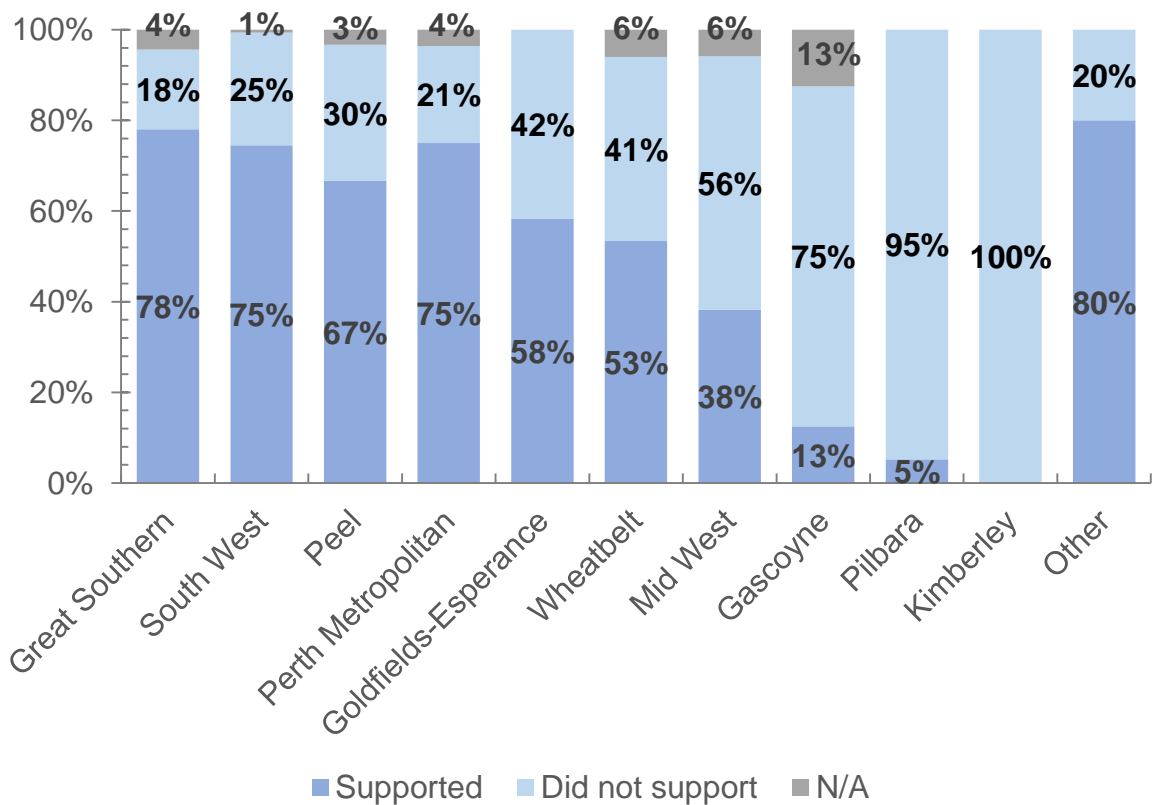


Figure 5: Responses received to the proposal to make the earmarking and/or branding of cattle optional, by region



Individuals and organisations

Of the 574 responses, 468 (82%) were from individuals and 106 (18%) were submitted on behalf of an organisation. A comparison of responses from individuals and organisations is provided in Table 2. Organisations were categorised into one of five sub-groups – animal welfare, breeder association, business, government or industry body. Please note that four of the five sub-groups contained fewer than five responses, while businesses accounted for 88% of the responses received from organisations.

Table 2: Responses received from individuals and organisations

Group	Supported	Did not support	Not applicable	Total
Earmarking of sheep				
Individuals	308 (66%)	146 (31%)	14 (3%)	468 (82%)
Organisations	61 (58%)	43 (41%)	2 (2%)	106 (18%)
<i>Animal welfare groups</i>	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)
<i>Breeder associations</i>	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (<1%)
<i>Businesses</i>	53 (57%)	38 (41%)	2 (2%)	93 (16%)
<i>Government</i>	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)
<i>Industry bodies</i>	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)
Earmarking and/or branding of cattle				
Individuals	309 (66%)	146 (31%)	13 (3%)	468 (82%)
Organisations	56 (53%)	43 (41%)	7 (7%)	106 (18%)
<i>Animal welfare groups</i>	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)
<i>Breeder associations</i>	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (<1%)
<i>Businesses</i>	48 (52%)	38 (41%)	7 (8%)	93 (16%)
<i>Government</i>	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)
<i>Industry bodies</i>	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)

Note: percentages listed in the ‘total’ column are the proportion each group represents of all 574 responses.

Most individuals (66%) supported the proposal for both sheep and cattle. Overall, the majority of organisations were also in support (58%), but by a smaller margin. When broken down, most sub-groups of organisations were evenly split, with the exception of the animal welfare groups (100% in support); namely, breeder associations, government and industry bodies were all divided, with 50% in support and 50% in opposition. Overall, the majority of businesses supported the proposal but by a small margin – 58% supported the proposal for sheep and 52% for cattle.

Results by stakeholder group

Responses from various stakeholder groups were also compared to see if there were any notable differences. Most participants (90%) indicated they were a producer and/or small landholder. Stock agents, transporters and processors – who may also be a producer or a small landholder – were grouped together for the purposes of the analysis (14 respondents). All other stakeholders who were not any of the above (including academics, animal welfare groups, environmental groups, foresters, non-government organisations and private citizens) were also considered together (17

respondents). Those who did not indicate which stakeholder group(s) they belonged to were omitted from this analysis (39 respondents). Figures 6 and 7 present the results.

Figure 6: Responses to the proposal to make earmarking of sheep optional, by stakeholder group

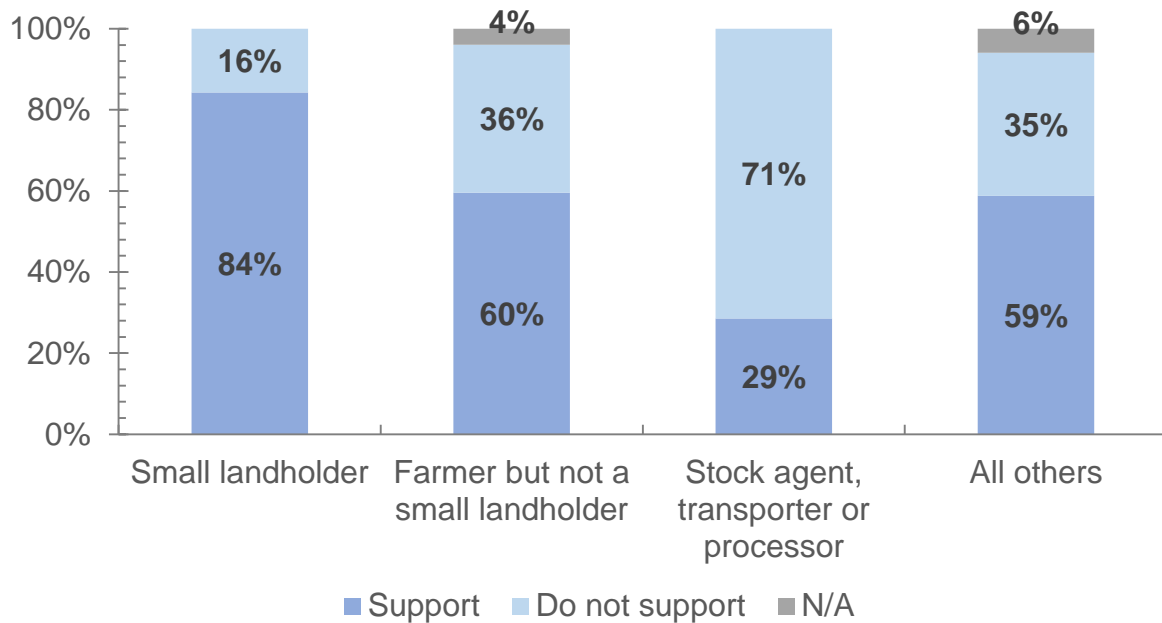
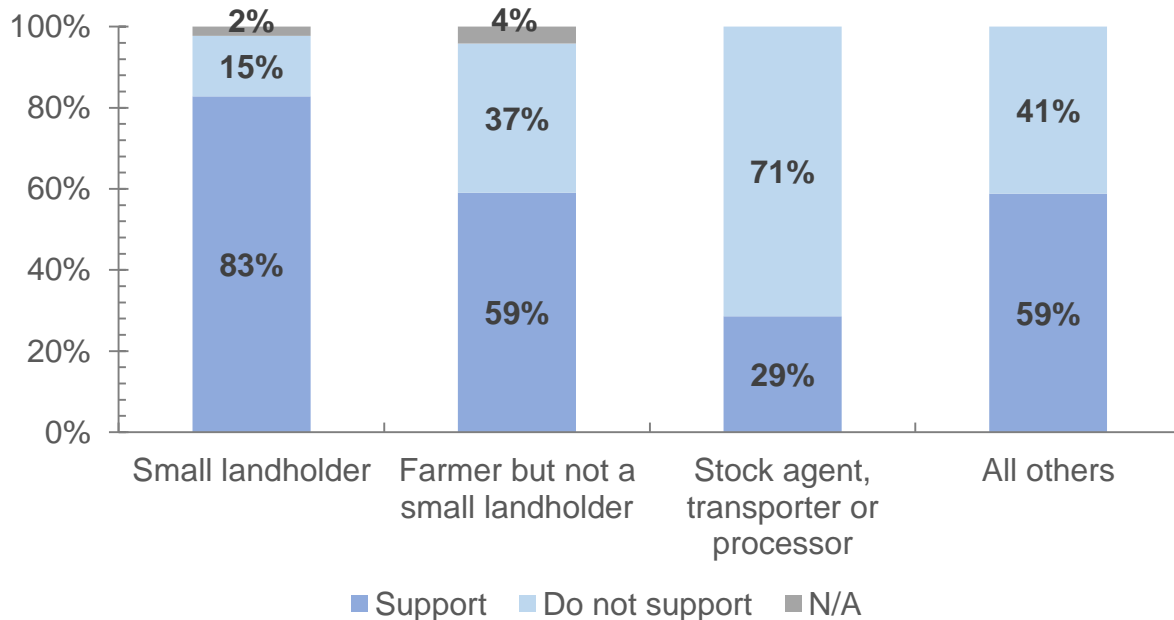


Figure 7: Responses to the proposal to make earmarking and/or branding of cattle optional, by stakeholder group



These results suggest small landholders were the most supportive of the proposal. Producers who were not small landholders demonstrated less support, but overall, the majority of people in this stakeholder group were also in favour. Most stock agents, transporters and processors were against the proposal, but only represented about 2% of the total number of respondents.

Results by sector

While there was a large amount of variance in the level of support for the proposal across regions, there was less variation between different sectors, as shown in Table 3.

As most respondents (526, or 92%) indicated that they were an owner of sheep, cattle or both, participants from all other sectors were grouped together as 'other'. This category includes:

- animal welfare groups and their members
- members of the community
- industry bodies
- supply chain members (stock agents, transporters, saleyards, processors and exporters)
- government agencies
- veterinarians and
- other.

Those who did not indicate which sector(s) they belonged to were omitted from this analysis (29 respondents).

Table 3: Level of support for the proposal, by sector

Sector	Supported	Did not support	Not applicable	Total
Earmarking of sheep				
Owens sheep (may also own cattle)	248 (71%)	99 (29%)	0 (0%)	347 (60%)
Owens sheep but not cattle	152 (72%)	58 (28%)	0 (0%)	210 (37%)
Owens cattle but not sheep	98 (55%)	66 (37%)	15 (8%)	179 (31%)
Other (owns neither cattle nor sheep)	11 (58%)	7 (37%)	1 (5%)	19 (3%)
Earmarking and/or branding of cattle				
Owens cattle (may also own sheep)	201 (64%)	115 (36%)	0 (0%)	316 (55%)
Owens cattle but not sheep	108 (60%)	71 (40%)	0 (0%)	179 (31%)
Owens sheep but not cattle	140 (67%)	50 (24%)	20 (10%)	210 (37%)
Other (owns neither cattle nor sheep)	12 (63%)	7 (37%)	0 (0%)	19 (3%)

Note: percentages listed in the 'total' column are the proportion each sector represents of all 574 responses.

From Table 3, it can be observed that participants who indicated they owned sheep but not cattle demonstrated the highest level of support for the proposal for both sheep and cattle, while those who indicated they owned cattle but not sheep had the lowest level of support for both – noting that the majority still supported the proposal.

4.3 Reasons why respondents did or did not support the proposal

Survey respondents were asked to explain why they support or do not support the proposal, for both sheep and cattle. These responses have been analysed to identify the key themes, which are presented and then described below. Most themes were applicable to both sheep and cattle, so the following summaries apply to both proposals; issues specific to one species are identified accordingly.

Please note: these themes represent the opinions expressed by the survey respondents, and do not necessarily reflect the views of DPIRD.

Reasons provided for why respondents supported the proposals

The overarching themes identified for why respondents felt that earmarking and branding should be optional were:

- NLIS is a well-established system that supports traceability over the animal's lifetime, so additional forms of identification are redundant and represent an unnecessary cost.
- Earmarks are a difficult and unreliable way to identify ownership.
- For animal welfare reasons; they cause pain and injury to the animal, making it an unpleasant task for both owners and animals and one that, for many owners, offers minimal benefits.
- It supports producer choice.
- It supports national consistency.

NLIS is well-established and supports lifetime traceability, additional forms of identification are redundant

Comments associated with this theme included that earmarks and brands only relate to the property of birth, so they are of limited use after the animals have moved from the original property. Further, NLIS tags have been found to be easier to read and more effective for identification purposes. Many respondents, including small landholders, suggested earmarks and brands offered little value for them, while others considered them to be a "waste of time" for animals sold for slaughter before 12 months of age.

It was also expressed that mandatory earmarking and branding result in unnecessary compliance requirements. They are associated with additional labour and require the purchasing of equipment such as earmarking pliers, which were considered expensive for some small landholders. For those who do not find the earmarks or brands to be useful, it was felt that these costs are incurred for limited to no benefit.

Earmarks are a difficult and unreliable way to identify ownership

Many people who supported making earmarking and branding optional felt earmarks were not a useful or reliable way to determine ownership. Several reasons were provided for this, including that they:

- change shape as the sheep or cattle grow, and are often unrecognisable after about a year
- may be unreadable in the cases of poor earmarking practices, which some reported regularly witnessing. In some cases, this also has the impact of making the ear unusable for future post-breeder tags
- cannot be used for many breeds to identify animals from a distance, e.g. cattle with hairy ears

- may not be the owner's true mark, with some people deliberately marking incorrectly to reduce the amount of pain caused to the animal, with no one noticing (one respondent reported doing this for over 20 years). Some people declared witnessing the illegal practice of sharing of earmarking pliers between farms/PICs
- cannot be used to quickly identify owners due to the large number of producers
- can still be tampered with, meaning that they are not guaranteed to be accurate.

It was felt that for the above reasons, earmarks do not help to deter theft or increase the ability to detect it, and that saleyards and abattoirs do not pay attention to them.

Animal welfare considerations

Many respondents felt that earmarks, in particular, are a cruel and outdated procedure as they are often done without anaesthetic, causing the animal pain and a loss of blood. Some reported that earmarking pliers are often not sharpened. Several respondents indicated their animals become visibly distressed by the procedure. This results in additional stress for the animal at marking, which is already a particularly challenging time.

Further, the earmark increases risk of infection, and an earmark hole may get hooked and tear the ear. They also can cause structural damage to the ear, including making them floppy, especially for small sheep and cattle breeds with small ears. For these reasons, it can be a very unpleasant task for those marking the animal, and those who do not see any benefit in the process feel the pain caused is unnecessary.

Some respondents noted that with animal welfare becoming an increasingly important issue to consumers, it is important to cease practices that can cause pain to an animal unless there is good justification to continue.

Support producer choice

Numerous respondents who supported the proposal to make earmarking and branding optional acknowledged the valuable purpose they serve for some producers, particularly pastoralists. However, given that the NLIS supports whole-of-life traceability and delivers the necessary biosecurity functions, it was felt that those who do not wish to earmark or brand should have the option not to. By making earmarking and branding optional, producers may decide what is best for their individual needs. It was noted that it was critical that DPIRD continue to provide relevant support services and databases to enable those who wish to continue earmarking and branding to do so.

Support national consistency

Some felt that it is important for WA to be aligned with other States, to improve national consistency.



Reasons provided for why survey respondents did not support the proposals

The overarching themes identified for why respondents felt earmarking and branding should remain mandatory were that they:

- are an easy way to visually identify stock
- support proof of ownership, including in cases of stock theft
- are permanent, and serve a biosecurity function
- have a minimal cost and labour impact, while the proposed changes to the NLIS requirements will have a notable impact
- need to remain mandatory for consistency and to maintain system integrity
- do not have animal welfare implications
- should not be made optional on the basis of it being implemented in other jurisdictions; there is no evidence that the introduction of this change has been successful elsewhere.

Easy way to visually identify stock

Many respondents who did not support the proposal to make earmarking and branding optional expressed their value as a visual tool for identifying stock – including for the purposes of detecting strays and returning them to neighbours – from a distance, without the need to muster (which can be dangerous, especially with cattle). This is important in pastoral regions where mobs can get mixed, especially in the north where storms and floods can cause damage and blow fences over so stock may wander.

Processors indicated the loss of earmarks will make it more difficult to differentiate between vendors' livestock if they get mixed. Earmarks also assist with identifying gender when drafting, and there was concern that farmers may become “lazy” about tagging in the correct ear, if they do not need to earmark.

Further, as a visual tool, no specialised equipment is required to determine ownership; most properties do not have an NLIS wand scanner to read the tags. There would be an expense associated with purchasing this equipment if required.

Support proof of ownership, including in cases of stock theft

Respondents noted ear tags are not permanent; they regularly fall out, get caught in fences, can be cut off or may fail and so cannot be read. This makes it difficult to establish ownership if an animal without a tag does not have an earmark or brand. It was felt ceasing earmarking and branding may encourage stock theft, and more forms of identification should be encouraged, not fewer.

Permanent identifier, which serves a biosecurity function

It was noted that earmarks and brands are permanent markings and are more difficult to alter than the NLIS tags. If the NLIS tag is lost, earmarks and brands therefore offer partial traceability for biosecurity purposes. Some felt that having only one animal tracing system increases biosecurity risks and may erode supply chain integrity, and that all tools to control this should be maintained. Some examples provided of where a lack of earmarks and brands may increase biosecurity risks include:

- identification of stray stock without NLIS tags
- producers taking out tags to avoid quarantining, meaning the property of origin of an infected animal cannot be determined, thereby affecting the whole area (or potentially the whole state)
- producers issued with a quarantine notice swapping their NLIS tag for one from a different PIC, so that the animal can still be sold.

While the latter two points were acknowledged as being illegal, it was felt the penalties associated with doing so were not strong enough to deter the activity. It was suggested a more permanent tool than the NLIS tags needs to be introduced before earmarks and brands can be ceased.

Has limited cost/labour impact, unlike proposed changes

Some respondents felt the equipment, time and labour costs associated with earmarking and tagging are negligible. However, the change in requirements to mandate the tagging of cattle at either six or 18 months of age is associated with an expense. It was also suggested this change may potentially cause more pain to the animals if they rip out the tags, which will then need to be replaced.

Needs to remain mandatory for consistency and system integrity

Participants indicated the current regulations are already confusing, and introducing grey areas may make it more difficult for producers to remain compliant. It was also suggested the integrity of the earmarking and branding systems rely on them remaining mandatory.

No animal welfare implications

It was flagged that no evidence had been cited of earmarking or branding having any animal welfare implications, nor of any public perception of these issues existing. Some farmers indicated they use pain relief when marking, so there is no additional pain associated with earmarking or branding. Others suggested making the processes optional is a slippery slope, offering animal welfare groups an opportunity to demand that they are banned, and to put pressure on producers who need to maintain these practices for farm management purposes.

No need to align with other jurisdictions

Many felt that if the current system works, there is no need to change it. Respondents noted that WA has a strong history in biosecurity, and that there is no need to introduce risk for the sake of national alignment. It was suggested there is no evidence the introduction of these changes in other jurisdictions has had a positive, or neutral, impact; some cited personal communication with producers in other states (New South Wales and South Australia) who have indicated they are unhappy with the new system and that there have been issues. An analysis of the impact of the changes in other jurisdictions was recommended.



5 Conclusions

Overall, the majority of participants in the survey supported the proposal to make the earmarking of sheep, and the earmarking and/or branding of cattle, optional. The exceptions to this were respondents from the northern regions of the State, and the stakeholder group consisting of processors, stock agents and transporters. Sheep owners tended to be more supportive of the proposal than cattle owners.

DPIRD notes the comments presented by those who did not support the proposal, and acknowledges that earmarks and brands continue to play an important role for many in the livestock industry, particularly for pastoralists. DPIRD wishes to comment in response to several of these points, to clarify its intent in making this proposal.

1. Those who rely on earmarks and brands for farm management purposes, e.g. to enable easy visual identification of stock or where stock theft is of concern, are able to continue these practices under the current proposal. This would be at the discretion of the owner, and therefore it would become the owner's personal responsibility to determine if and when an earmark or brand is required based on their individual production system(s) and requirements.

Some participants who supported the proposal noted its benefits for enabling producer choice. Others who did not support the proposal suggested the regulations should remain as they are for clarity, to minimise 'grey areas' and confusion for producers around requirements. However, the acceptability of shifting responsibility for earmarking and branding from the sector as a whole (through mandating that all producers are required to do it, and the associated monitoring of compliance required of Government) to individuals was not addressed by most respondents.

2. DPIRD can confirm that the earmarking and branding systems and infrastructure will be maintained and their integrity will not be compromised under the optional earmarking and branding proposal.
3. Earmarks and brands may assist with traceability for biosecurity purposes where an NLIS tag has been lost or not yet inserted and the livestock still belongs to the original owner. However, DPIRD's experience has been that once livestock have been traded, identifying the original owner is rarely useful when tracing back biosecurity risks in a supply chain context.

4. DPIRD has engaged with biosecurity programs in other jurisdictions to understand the impacts of deregulating earmarking and branding in their states. These jurisdictions indicated that in their view, there have been no noticeable increases in stock theft since the practices were deregulated, with theft tending to be linked to other factors such as livestock value.

6 Next steps

The Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry, Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC, has approved DPIRD to commence drafting amendments to existing legislation to implement this change. DPIRD will continue to provide updates before the amended regulations are published.

7 More information

Further information about this consultation process and others held by DPIRD can be found on the [Talking Biosecurity website](#). Queries about the findings presented in this report may be directed to animalbiosecurity@dpiird.wa.gov.au

Appendices

Appendix A: List of survey respondents

The following organisations and individuals who provided submissions to the consultation survey consented to having their names published.

DPIRD thanks all respondents to the survey for their participation.

Organisations

AE & LD Roche	Allington Family Farm
Amuri Creek Fruit Pty Ltd	Animals' Angels
Australian Capital Equity Pty Ltd	Australian Veterinary Association (WA Division)
Banyanda Farms	Banyulla
Barkly Royal Farming Co	Bettini Beef
Bowie Beef	BRT
BS & CM Gardiner	CJ & KL West
CN & MC Batterham	Davis River Pastoral Partnership
DK & BC Woolcock	Elders
First Australian Farmland	Fortescue Cattle Company
GB & LB McDonald & Son	Glenflorrie Brahmans
Gumleaf Cottage Farmstay	Hall Farms Pty Ltd
Howatharra Grazing Co	JS Crimp & Co
Jubilee Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd	Kimberley Agricultural and Pastoral Company
Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association	Koondarrie Station
KW & AJ Swann	Moran and Co
Nevlaine Pty Ltd	Nullakai Vet Services
Outback Farms Gingin	P Hull & K Enomoto
PC & RL Tilbrook	PF and JA Wiseman
Phoenix Farm	Porongurup Farm
RMAD Ditchburn	RSPCA WA
RT & PA Lay	RTIO
SC & LA Carter & Co	Stud Merino Breeders' Association of WA
Surrige & Son	SWS Pastoral Company
Valinor Farm Pty Ltd	WAFarmers Dairy Council
Waitavalo Farms Pty Ltd	Wangeling Nominees
West & Haggerty	Westdale Rural Enterprises
Western Australian Meat Industry Authority	Williambury Station
Wilyun Pools Farm	WP & CK Dumbrell
Wyloo Station	

Individuals

Alexis Davy	Alfred Lorkiewicz
Alison A'Court	Alison Scott
Allen Hodson	Amanda Brown
Andrea Fordham	Andrew Borthwick
Andrew Kenny	Andrew Klein
Andrew Knight	Andrew Male
Andrew Rintoul	Andrew Vesey
Ann Harris	Annemaree Jensen
Anthony Anfuso	Arthur Harris
Arthur Patterson	Barry Calverley
Belinda Lay	Ben Sieber
Benjamin Cox	Benjamin Rose
Bethan Lloyd	Bev Murphy
Bevan Harrison	Beverley Alexander
Bill Sloan	BJ Montague
Brad Noakes	Brent White
Brett Harms	Brian Brennan
Brian Mapson	Bruce Mattinson
Bruce Topham	Caleb Gill
Calum Carruth	Candice Smith
Caroline van Niekerk	Carolyn Hayes
Casey Bombara	Cath Miller
Cathy Bastow	Charlotte Crabb
Chloe Flood	Chris Ward
Christine Schilling	Christopher Brett
Clinton Gartrell	Cody Fulwood
Colin Browning	Colin Jacob
Courtenay Bombara	Craig Lock
Craig Mackey	Craig Stewart
D and M Casselton	Dahna Kleemann
Dale Delaporte	Daniel Neill
Darrel Hudson	Darren Arthur
Darren Walters	Darryl Klein
Daryl Baker	Dave Saunders
David Carpenter	David Chenik
David Deane-Spread	David Guille
David Hamilton	David Hodby
David Hutton	David Lindsay
David Marsh	David Rees
David Robinson	David Smith
David Young	Dennis Andersson
Di Dekker	Dion Bond
Donald Williams	Doug Payne
Doug Wilcock	Dr Sheila Greenwell
Drew Carruthers	Dustin Gardiner
Dylan Corker	Elizabeth Williams
Ellen Walker	Emily Stretch
Emma Cullen	Emma Holland
Emmanuelle Daw	Eric and Chris Goodchild

Ethel Hawkins	Felicity Gilbert
Fiona Summerfield	Gemma Chenik
Geoff Manning	Gibb Macdonald
Glenn Allen	Glenn Davies
Glenn Simcock	Graham Butler
Graham Wright	Greg Staniforth-Smith
Harry Hercock	Hayley Goad
Heidi Armstrong	Helen Ransom
Helen Riley	Ian Harrison
Ian Kelly	Ian Lorrimar
Jacques de Villiers	James Hall
James Macfarlane	Jane Gillham
Janelle Price	Jason Walshaw
Jeff Burns	Jen Malady
Jenny Damiani	Jenny Harrington
Jerome Drew	Jessica Yost
Jill Lockyer	Jill Wilson
Joanna Slattery	Joanne Zabaznow
Joanne Bornt	Joe Commisso
John Fletcher	John Fry
John McKay	John Moyes
Jonathan Nelson	Justin Fish
Karen Coumbe	Kat Pope
Kate Suckling	Katherine Paull
Kay Harding	Kaylene Sandra Parker
Keith Ashton	Keith Jeffreys
Kelda Bell	Ken Elliott
Ken Hill-Power	Ken MacLeay
Kenneth Dixon	Kerry Paull
Kerry Reid	Kevin Nettleton
Kim Martin	Kira Batterbee
Kylie Cook	Lauren Lewis
Laurie Whinnen	Leanne Corker
Lee Shuard	Len Calneggia
Leonie Inger	Les Clarke
Lilly Garbelini	Lindsay M McNeill
Lisa Chandler	Lizz Rear
Louise Findlay-Cooper	Lyn Slade
Mal Johnston	Mal Nairn
Marc Edwards	Margaret Thompson
Maria Rebane	Marinda Kerferd
Mark Harris	Mark Linton
Matt Nield	Melinda Leeds
Michael Cook	Michael De Long
Michael McKeown	Michael Munroe
Michael Percy	Michael Rose
Michael Wallace	Mick Sherwood
Murray Thornton	Murray Ward
Myles Irvine	N Gill
Neville Mycoe	Nicole Smith
Pam Goodwin	Patrick O'Neill

Patrick Williamson	Paul Fry
Pauline Cook	Perry Dolling
Peter Grey	Peter Sachse
Peter Thomas	Quentin Fowler
Ray Carr	Richard Vaux
Rob Broun	Robert Bain
Robert E Kennedy	Robert Shepherd
Robert Whitfield	Robyn Linke
Rochell Walker	Ron Daniels
Ron van Dongen	Ronald Moore
Ronald Tuckett	Rosalie Jolly
Rosanna Hindmarsh	Rose Young
Ross Chappell	Roy Butler
Ryan Scott	Ryan Willing
Sam Beech	Shane & Kristy Rieck
Sharlene Davis	Shelley Chick
Sonja Franks	Stephanie Coombes
Stephen Frost	Stephen Meerwald
Stephen Sprigg	Steve Moir
Stewart Smith	Stuart Rintoul
Stuart Wilson	Sue Creek
Susan Martin	The Hon Rick Mazza MLC
Therese Hynes	Tim Paterson
Tim Watts	Tina Glasson
Tina Thorne	Tom Cyster
Tom Foulkes-Taylor	Tom Muir
Tom van Dongen	Tracey Reed
Tracy Quigley	Trevor Hodshon
Trevor McIntosh	Vernon Bussell
Vince George	Wade Scott
Warren Thompson	Wayne Smith
Winston Jackson	Wolf Martinick
Xavier White	Yvonne Marsden
Zoe Wilkinson	