

24 February 2010

Network Services

At its meeting on Thursday 18th February, 2010 the AWEX Board considered the future direction and provision of AWEX Network Services. The AWEX Board commissioned a report in 2009 to review the current network infrastructure and interview stakeholders with respect to their future needs.

The 2009 review indicated that the current network infrastructure was in need of redeveloping to a readily supported platform if the network was to service the industry into the future. The indicative cost to rewrite the network would require a significant investment of Members' funds.

Members have been advised that the AWEX Board was also considering a proposal from AWTA which indicated that a comparable service could be delivered by them at a total cost to industry of \$80,000 p.a. exc. GST.

Talman have also advised that they will continue to offer a network service to their clients and the wool industry.

After careful consideration of the proposals and options the AWEX Board made the decision that AWEX will cease to offer Network services from the July 2010 recess.

This decision was made in the knowledge that:

- ✘ The new Network services will adequately meet the needs of industry,
- ✘ A responsibility of the AWEX Board is to ensure the delivery of AWEX services are available to industry at minimal cost,
- ✘ A considerable investment of Members' funds would have been required if AWEX was to continue to provide network services to meet the needs of users,
- ✘ The current cost of charges to AWEX to operate the Network were not competitive, and
- ✘ There will be three network service providers (Talman, AWH and AWTA) which will present a commercial and competitive choice to industry.

The AWEX Board recognised that the support provided by AWEX to network users over the last 15 years has been of considerable value.

Australian Wool Exchange Limited

PO Box 649 Lane Cove NSW 1595 www.awex.com.au info@awex.com.au | t. (+61 2) 9428 6100
Ground Floor 318 Burns Bay Rd Lane Cove NSW 2066 abn. 35 061 495 565 | f. (+61 2) 9420 9633

Members' update



The AWEX Board also resolved that AWEX will convene a working group of industry stakeholders to identify any further issues which need to be addressed and to facilitate a smooth transition ensuring the needs and expectations of users are met.

In making these decisions, AWEX has confirmed its commitment to continuing to improve and build on its core services to members and industry.

For all further information please contact:

Mark Grave

T. 02 9428 6111

E. mgrave@awex.com.au

Nigel Stewart

T. 02 9428 6191

E. nstewart@awex.com.au

Update: 2970

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