

Strategy Project Team Recommendations
 - as adopted by the Interim Sheep Board on 18th September and 23rd October 2008.

No.	Title	Recommendation as adopted by Interim Sheep Board:
1	<i>Animal identification - The system</i>	the current NSIS sheep identification system be modified to include double tagging, the issue of an identical replacement for lost tags and no tagging on movement between flocks, to closely reflect the current successful cattle model; however this would only be a requirement for performance-recording breeders and producers, and not a mandated requirement across the industry.
2	<i>Animal identification - Establishment of a Sheep Database</i>	a central database (the Sheep Database) is established.
3	<i>Data recording - Electronic Identification (EID)</i>	performance-recorded flocks move as quickly as possible to use of EID animal identification subject to cost and practicality.
4	<i>Data recording - Trait recording</i>	performance recording protocols be adjusted to accommodate earlier, later, and more regular recording of lamb live weights, recording of lamb mortality, lambing difficulty, feet problems, faecal egg counts, dag scores, and mature ewe weights.
5	<i>Data recording - Minimum recording of criteria</i>	the genetic evaluation system makes use of all recorded data that helps improve the accuracy of the evaluations.
6	<i>Data recording - Recording systems</i>	that data recording systems be developed to minimise costs and minimise disruption to normal management, and the costs of all performance recording should initially be primed through Government support and move to a user-pays basis over time in a way that maintains and enhances participation in performance recording in response to demand for trait improvements by commercial producers.
7	<i>Data recording - Data capture</i>	a range of data capture options be provided to performance recording flocks, with a view that over time these will migrate to widespread use of EID systems for performance recording.
8	<i>Data recording - Provision for new genomics technologies</i>	blood samples be taken from selected animals (all sires of lambs recorded in the central progeny test and all lambs born in the central progeny test) and high-quality DNA extracted and stored.
9	<i>Genetic evaluation - Timing of evaluations</i>	evaluations be conducted on at least a weekly basis all year round.
10	<i>Genetic evaluation - Reporting of results</i>	a draft version of the breeding objective be prepared as soon as possible for further industry consultation and that the breeding objective be used to report sub-indexes for trait groups, along with overall indexes such as a Flock Replacement Index and a Terminal Index.

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No.	Title	Recommendation as adopted by Interim Sheep Board:
11	<i>Breeding (and demonstration) schemes – the Central Progeny Test</i>	the Central Progeny Test (CPT) is established as outlined in this report to start with mating in 2009.
12	<i>Breeding (and demonstration) schemes – the Maternal Lamb Producer group (MALP) scheme</i>	the MALP is established to start with mating in 2008.
13	<i>Breeding (and demonstration) schemes - CPT& MALP - emphasis on traits</i>	that the emphasis within both the CPT and the MALP is on traits, not breed
14	<i>Breeding (and demonstration) schemes - CPT location</i>	the CPT is spread over geographically diverse locations wherever possible.
15	<i>Breeding (and demonstration) schemes - operations of the MALP</i>	the Interim Sheep Board urgently commits to the MALP scheme recognising that the investment reflects its critical role in the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the value of genetic improvement to breeders and producers.
16	<i>Potential impact of the proposed genetic evaluation scheme</i>	the Interim Sheep Board commissions a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed genetic evaluation scheme.
17	<i>Structure - The need for a collective support structure</i>	the Interim Sheep Board move towards the development of a permanent structure that pulls together and represents the interests of sheep processors, sheep producers and sheep breeders, including those sheep breeders and producers that do not currently performance record.
18	<i>Structure - Participation by processors</i>	the sheep breeding objective be developed to reflect future industry benefits from improved carcass characteristics under close consultation with the sheep processing sector.
19	<i>Structure - Participation by performance recording pedigree breeders</i>	the data of current PSBIP breeders needs to be migrated across to a new sheep database as a priority, and existing, improved and expanded services delivered to these breeders as soon as possible.
20	<i>Structure - Participation by breed societies</i>	over time the Sheep Database should offer new systems and capability to facilitate highly cost effective delivery of services offered by breed societies to their members.