



Australian Wool  
Sustainability Scheme

# Partner Program

## Business Rules



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**Definitions**

AWSS Partner – An entity with reasonable interest in the Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme (AWSS), who has successfully completed the application, been approved, and paid the AWSS Partner annual fee.

AWSS Partner Number – A unique identification number allocated to each AWSS Partner, to be used to verify Partnership status.

AWSS Partner Badge – A badge AWSS Partners can use to promote their Partnership status.

AWSS Wool Certificate/s of Compliance – A Certificate that verifies that the bales of wool, identified through their eBale ID, have been produced on a property that is AWSS Certified, and has met the clip preparation and traceability requirements.

Exporter – A business of exporting wool from Australia.

First-Stage Processor – A business that undertakes the scouring of wool.

Selling Agent – A business that facilitates the selling of wool in Australia. Includes brokers and private treaty merchants.

**About the AWSS Partner Program**

The Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme (AWSS) Partner Program is designed to uphold the quality, integrity and digital efficiency of AWSS Certification, and provides stakeholders of the certified Australian wool supply chain the opportunity to engage with the AWSS and to be recognised, featured, and preferred by customers seeking certified, sustainable wool.

AWSS Partners will play a vital role in supporting this Australian-led scheme and ensuring the smooth, digital-first approach to certification. AWSS provides a trusted traceability system for Australian wool through industry endorsed eBale identification from farm to first-stage processing.

The AWSS Partner Program provides a credible and practical way for members of the certified Australian supply chain to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability, transparency, and responsible industry conduct.

## Part One: AWSS Partners

### 1. Eligibility

- 1.1. All entities with a reasonable interest in the Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme (AWSS) may be eligible to become an AWSS Partner.
- 1.2. Applications will be assessed by AWSS on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.3. AWSS may deem an entity ineligible for AWSS Partnership at its own discretion.

### 2. Admission to Partnership

- 2.1. Applications must be submitted in a form approved by the AWSS.
- 2.2. An application must be accompanied by required information demonstrating they have a reasonable interest in the AWSS and align with its purpose and ethos.
- 2.3. If the AWSS is not satisfied that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements of the AWSS Partner Program, the application will not be approved.

### 3. Processing AWSS Partnership Applications

- 3.1. The AWSS will consider all AWSS Partnership applications after receiving the application to determine whether the application complies with **clause 1**.
- 3.2. If the application:
  - a) Complies with **clause 1** and is accompanied by sufficient information, the AWSS will approve the applicant.
  - b) Does not comply with **clause 1**, or is not accompanied by sufficient evidence, the AWSS will reject the application, or will require the applicant to supply any further evidence of eligibility that it considers reasonably necessary and in that event the determination of the application will be deferred until the evidence has been supplied.
- 3.3. Successful applicants will be allocated a unique AWSS Partner number and Partner Badge.
  - a) Unique AWSS Partner number may be used to request and verify AWSS Wool Certificates of Compliance as per **clause 7.4(c)**.
  - b) AWSS Partner Badges must be used only in accordance with the *AWSS Partner Badge Usage Guidelines*.

- 3.4. When an applicant has been accepted to the AWSS Partner Program, the AWSS will send to the applicant written notice of the acceptance and, if an annual Partnership fee is payable, a request for payment of the applicant's first annual Partnership fee. Upon payment of the applicant's first annual Partnership fee the applicant will become an AWSS Partner. If the payment is not made within 30 days after the date of the acceptance notice, the AWSS may in its discretion cancel the acceptance of the application.

#### 4. Partnership Fees

- 4.1. The AWSS may, from time to time, determine:
- a) Whether an annual Partnership fee will be payable; and
  - b) The amount of any annual Partnership fee payable.
- 4.2. The AWSS may require Partners to confirm each year when paying their annual Partnership fees that they still satisfy the requirements for admission to the AWSS Partner Program.
- 4.3. If a Partner's Partnership ceases under **clause 5**, the Partner's annual Partnership fee is not refundable.
- 4.4. The annual Partnership fee period will be computed from 1 July each year, and annual Partnership fees will be due in advance within 30 days of that date.
- 4.5. If an AWSS Partner does not pay the Partnership fee within 30 days after the fee becomes due, the AWSS will give notice to that Partner of that fact and may, if the fee remains unpaid after expiration of 21 days from the date of that notice, declare that Partner's Partnership forfeited, and the Partner will then cease to be an AWSS Partner.
- 4.6. The AWSS may determine that any Partner who has been admitted to Partnership between 1 January and 30 June in any year will not be required to pay the entirety of the annual Partnership fee until that Partner's next Partnership fee falls due.

#### 5. Cessation of Partnership

- 5.1. AWSS Partnership will cease if:
- a) The AWSS Partner gives written notice to AWSS to withdraw from the AWSS Partner Program.
  - b) The AWSS Partner does not pay their AWSS Partner Program fees.
  - c) The Partner is determined to be in breach of the *AWSS Partner Program Business Rules*.

- 5.2. AWSS Partnerships may be ceased at the discretion of AWSS at any point.
- 5.3. If an AWSS Partnership is ceased for any reason, the entity will not be eligible for a refund of their AWSS Partner fees of any amount.

## Part Two: AWSS Wool Certificate of Compliance

### 6. Eligibility and Issuance

- 6.1. A CoC can only be requested by, and issued to, approved AWSS Partners.

### 7. Types of Certificates

- 7.1. The issuance of a CoC is determined by the requestor's role within the supply chain, as follows:

- a) Bale / Lot CoC - available to Selling Agents for auction or non-auction sales.
- b) Consignment CoC - available to Exporters.

### 8. Requesting a Certificate

- 8.1. To request a CoC, an AWSS Partner must:
  - a) Submit a CoC request using the approved form.
  - b) The request must be accompanied by the CoC fee, as specified in the AWEX Fees and Charges schedule as determined by the Board.
- 8.2. To be eligible for an AWSS Wool CoC, the requestor must:
  - a) Be an AWSS Supply Chain Partner and fall into one of the following categories: Selling Agent, or Exporter
  - b) Warrant the accuracy of all submitted information, including details regarding wool ownership and the intended recipient.
- 8.3. AWEX will issue the CoC based solely on the information provided by the requestor.
- 8.4. A CoC can only be updated with AWEX by the CoC requestor.

## 9. Certificate Verification

- 9.1. A CoC can only be verified through AWEX's verification platform.
- 9.2. A CoC may be verified through AWEX's verification platform by anyone that has received a copy of this Certificate.
- 9.3. Should AWSS have any queries regarding how wool and accompanying CoC was traded, the CoC requestor must cooperate fully with these inquiries.
- 9.4. To verify a CoC, the entity or individual must use the AWEX verification platform, using key identifying information:
  - a) Name, Position & Organisation.
  - b) The certificate ID.
  - c) AWSS Partner number if available.
  - d) Certificate requestor and intended recipient details.

## 10. Certificate Uses & Rules

- 10.1. The CoC is valid as of the date of issue.
- 10.2. The CoC is only valid if the information provided by the applicant is warranted as true and correct.
- 10.3. The CoC does not verify the status of wool through the supply chain.
- 10.4. Owners of AWEX CoC must notify AWEX of recipient changes to maintain CoC validity.
- 10.5. The requestor agrees to indemnify AWEX against any claims arising from misrepresentation, inaccuracies, or misuse of the CoC.
- 10.6. AWEX does not monitor, verify, or validate wool transactions beyond this stage in the supply chain.
- 10.7. Failure to adhere to these conditions may result in CoC revocation and restriction of future requests.
- 10.8. AWEX reserves the right to take appropriate action against misuse.



**11. Fees & Charges**

- 11.1. AWSS Partners will be invoiced by AWEX at the point of CoC request for a fee as specified in the *AWEX Fees and Charges* schedule.
- 11.2. Partners must pay to AWEX the amount payable no later than 30 days, or according to the payment terms on the invoice.
- 11.3. In the event of late payments for CoC invoices, AWSS retains the right to reject future CoC requests or cancel the AWSS Partner's Partnership at its own discretion.

**Part Three: Rules and Requirements for AWSS Partners****12. Partner Rules and Requirements**

- 12.1. AWSS Partners must meet the rules and requirements of the *AWSS Partner Program Business Rules*.
- 12.2. AWSS Partners must comply with the following:
  - a) not engage in conduct that is misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive;
  - b) at all times behave in a way that upholds the values, integrity and good reputation of AWEX, AWSS and of Australian wool;
  - c) take all reasonable steps to ensure AWEX is kept informed of any change in the nature and scope of the Partners' business that is likely to be relevant to their AWSS Partner status;
  - d) advise AWEX of any circumstance that may have an adverse effect on the continuing ability of Partners to comply with the *AWSS Partner Program Business Rules*.

**13. Selling Agents**

- 13.1. May request a Bale/Lot CoC to verify AWSS Certification.
- 13.2. AWSS Partners must verify AWSS Certification of lots before transmitting AWSS Quality Scheme Codes to the Auction Catalogue in a format defined by AWSS.
- 13.3. Must adhere to AWSS requirements for sale of non-auction wool, and follow AWEX protocols to verify AWSS Certification and request appraisals for clip preparation, including;

- a) Request for Certification (RFC)
- b) Request for Appraisal (RFA)
- c) Request for Detail (RFD)

- 13.4. Must transmit appropriate eBale ID information to buyers of AWSS Certified wool.
- 13.5. Any discrepancies or suspected non-compliance must be reported to AWSS immediately.

#### **14. Exporter**

- 14.1. May request Consignment CoC.
- 14.2. Must warrant the accuracy of the information in the CoC.
- 14.3. Must update AWSS if CoC becomes invalid due to changes in details.
- 14.4. Any discrepancies or suspected non-compliance must be reported to AWSS immediately.

### **Part Four: Claims Policies**

#### **15. Claims Policy**

- 15.1. All claims regarding AWSS Partner status must comply with the requirements below:
  - a) Partners may communicate their AWSS Partner status but must do so in a manner that is factually correct.
  - b) Claims must not suggest or imply that AWSS certifies products beyond the greasy wool stage.
  - c) Traceability claims can only relate to the scope of AWSS Certification – from farm to first-stage processing.
  - d) AWSS Certification claims must not be attributed to finished products, including yarn, fabric, or garments.
  - e) Certification of the greasy wool input may be referenced.

**16. Approved Language**

16.1. Partners may use the following approved statements in industry-facing communications:

- a) “[Company Name] is a proud Partner of the Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme.”
- b) “The Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme verifies on-farm sustainability credentials and enables digital traceability from farm to first-stage processing.”
- c) “We proudly source wool certified by the Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme.”
- d) “We proudly source AWSS-certified wool.”
- e) “Wool from AWSS-certified farms has been verified to meet sustainability and animal welfare standards up to the greasy wool stage.”
- f) “Our wool is sourced from properties that meet the AWSS Grower Standards for sustainability.”

## Glossary of Terms

Auction Catalogue – a public sale catalogue produced for the selling of wool at auction containing information of the wool offered for sale.

Bale – a standardised, compressed bundle of greasy wool, packed in a Wool Pack, usually weighing between 180 to 204 kilograms.

Batch – a group of wool fibers that has been processed together.

Clip Preparation – preparation of greasy wool for sale by a registered Wool Classer or Classing House to the standards described in the Code of Practice for the preparation of Australian wool clips.

Code of Practice for the preparation of Australian wool clips (COP) – maintained and issued by the Australian Wool Exchange Limited, the COP provides technical explanations for wool classing concepts and includes essential and recommended practices.

Consignment – bales/lots of wool prepared for sale to a single recipient by an exporter.

eBale – wool packs with embedded RFID/QR code technology which allocate a unique identification number to each wool pack. eBale IDs are managed by the Australian Wool Exchange Limited.

Non-auction wool – wool traded through non-auction methods for example, private treaty, direct selling, physical forwards, forward basis contracts and online selling.

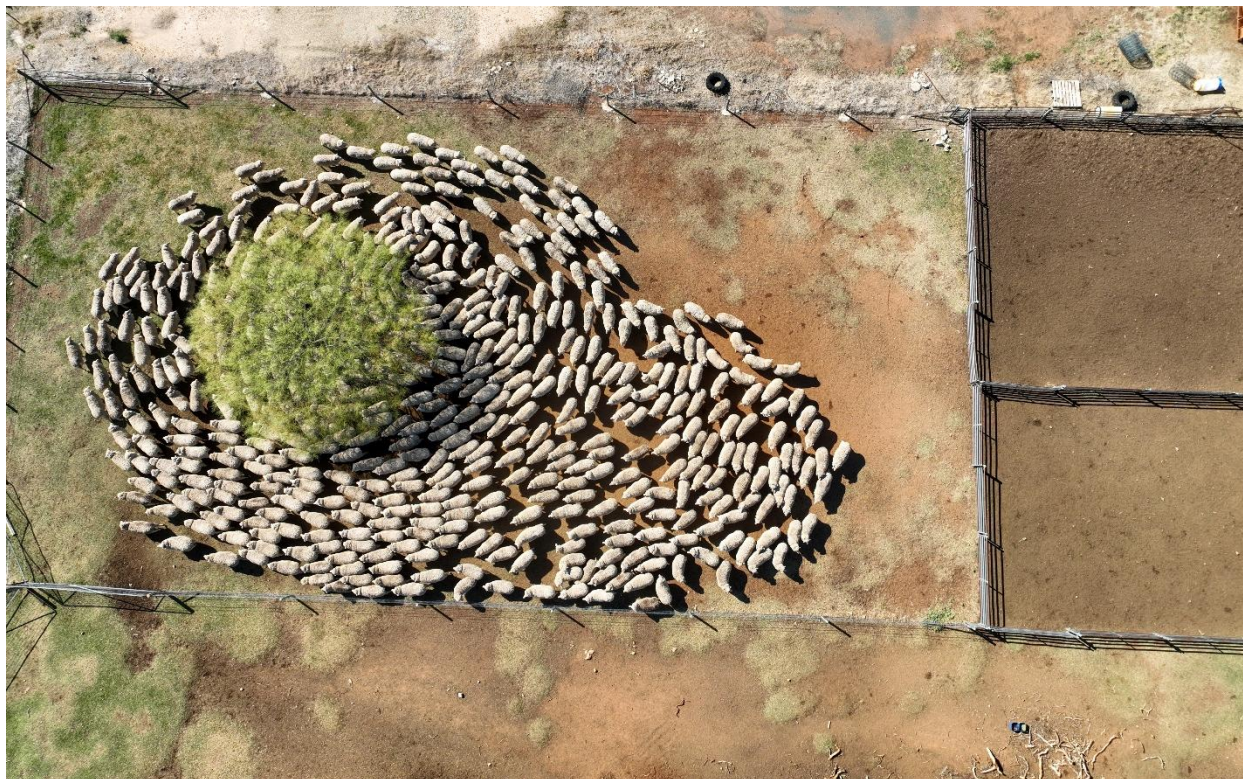
Quality Scheme Code – a two to four letter code that identifies wool belonging to a Quality Assurance or Membership Scheme in Australian Auction Catalogues.

Requestor – a selling agent, exporter or first-stage processor who is an AWSS Partner, and can request a CoC for bales/lots, consignments or batches of AWSS Certified wool.

ResponsiWOOL – certification of the Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme, assigned to properties that adopt recognised breech modification practices *and* use appropriate pain relief.

SustainaWOOL – certification of the Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme, assigned to properties that do not practice breech modification or for properties that have ceased breech modification practices.

Verification – the process of confirming the AWSS Certification status of bales/lots, consignments and batches using unique eBale IDs.



## Contact AWSS

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