

AgResearch Future Footprint Plan (FFP) : Response from Stakeholders

Jock Allison : March 2014

**Does any industry group agree with the
plans?**

Not the Sheep and Deer Industry

Stakeholders in AgResearch

- 1. Shareholding Ministers – consider this is a matter for the Board and Executive.**

Stakeholders in AgResearch

1. Shareholding Ministers – consider this is a matter for the Board and Executive.
2. The deer industry – disagree

Stakeholders in AgResearch

3. AgResearch staff :

Change Management Team - disagree

They considered the issues in more detail
that Exec Management

Invermay scientific staff – disagree, Few (if
any) believe that the FPP has any scientific
or operational merit!

STAKEHOLDERS IN AGRESEARCH

4. Many previous senior scientists, research directors, FRS's, and Industry Commentators - **disagree**

Stakeholders in AgResearch

5. The New Zealand Sheep Industry :

What does the Sheep Industry think?

**A Survey of New Zealand Ram
Breeders on SIL**

INVERMAY SHEEP GENETICS AND GENOMICS TEAM : WORLD CLASS

Supplies the technical side to selection for production, growth rate, lambing%, carcass composition, parasite resistance etc.

Strong practical relationships with ram breeders

Do we want to break up this winning team?

THE SURVEY

- 1. 394 Ram Breeders > 550 flocks > than 50 ewes / flock**
- 2. Supply 85 to 90% of all the rams to NZ**
- 3. The Breeders are the key to increasing productivity, they are the industry**
- 4. 60% of flocks in the south, 40% in the north - a New Zealand problem, not a local problem**

Contacts : How was it done

1. Gore Ram Sales ; through a petition, “**we disagree with AgResearch’s proposal to move the Invermay SGG to Lincoln**”
2. Through email and letters
3. Through telecommunication
4. Vote : **Yes stay, No, go to Lincoln, or Abstain**

Table 1 : Summary of responses – retain scientists at Invermay?

No of Breeders	Yes	No	Abstain	No Response
394	363 (92.1%)	5 (1.3%)	11 (2.8%)	15 (3.8%)

Breed	Number of Flocks	Yes	No	Abstain	No Response
Romney	114 (+17)	104	2	6	2
Coopworth	29	23	1		5
Composites	72 (+36)	63	4	4	1
Perendale	46 (+2)	46			
Texel	50	49		1	
Corriedale	15	13			2
Dorset Down	23	21	1		1
Poll Dorset	35	27		3	5
South Suffolk	16	14			2
Southdown	15	15			
Suffolk	25	20	1	1	3
Others	68	59	4	4	1
Total	506	451 (89.1%)	13 (2.6%)	20 (4.0%)	22 (4.4%)

Ian Stevenson, President NZ Sheep Breeders Association says

“With the intended transfer of the Sheep Genetics group from Invermay I am concerned with the with the potential loss of expertise, as our Breed Societies have and continue to have a helpful and friendly relationship with the Invermay personnel”.

AgResearch, the requirement to consult, Statement of Corporate Intent

“AgResearch is clearly focussed on stakeholders and end users. Together with its partners and collaborators, AgResearch will play a key role in delivering the new knowledge and technologies that will underpin the future NZ pastoral sector, and agri-food and agri-tech sector” p 4, SCI, 2012-2017

AgResearch, the requirement to consult, Statement of Corporate Intent

Similar rhetoric throughout the SCI

“Seek stakeholder consent for significant activity beyond its scope of operation” -

AgResearch website.

The SCI is tabled in parliament, AgResearch is accountable to Ministers and tested by the Office of the Auditor General that the statements are true and delivered?

AgResearch, the requirement to consult

To date there has been no single **believable** reason given by AgResearch management to their staff, or to the NZ Sheep and Deer industries for the shifting of the two scientific groups to Lincoln.

Such a direct breach of a publically accountable and fundamental principle of the Board requires further explanation

HOW TO CREATE AN INFERIOR HUB BY DESTROYING A SUPERIOR HUB

- Get rid of best scientists and tech staff,**
- Move them 350 km North,**
- Spend \$20 million + for office and labs you already have,**
- Don't provide similar animal resources, and**
- Co-operation with Otago University Unlikely**

“It is dangerous to be right where
established men are wrong”

Voltaire