

Questions on notice: Dr Rosemary Elliott, Sentient

1) Who reviewed this research? Who peer reviewed this research?

This research was conducted by BG Economics, a socioeconomic consulting firm in Brisbane, Australia, who undertake economic analyses on a wide range of socially based issues, including animal welfare, for non-for-profit organisations. The findings here are based on an independent survey of Australian woolgrowers, which was commissioned by Humane Society International (Aust.) and FOUR PAWS, both international animal welfare organisations. Humane Society International and FOUR PAWS did not conduct this research.

This research has not been peer reviewed and is not published in a peer-reviewed journal at this stage. It is highly innovative, including both quantitative and qualitative data (in the form of case studies) and represents the first stage in research into woolgrowers who have transitioned away from wrinkly type to plain-bodied Merinos through selective breeding. I have been unable to find any research published in peer reviewed journals that quantifies this transition. I believe this independent study is worthy of submission to such a journal and will hopefully attract industry funding for further research into this area. It is often the case that peer-reviewed research has its origins in anecdotal evidence, followed by independent research and then applications for funding grants.

2) The report refers specifically to an SRS group – it sounded like something that farmers were signing on to.

I cannot see any reference in the report to an SRS group and am not aware of any group that woolgrowers sign up to. The term SRS® appears in the glossary. This refers simply to a breeding system developed by Dr Jim Watts.