



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA - THE SENATE

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Dear Mr Olsson and Dr Sheil

I write regarding the matter of my previous concerns relating to perceived conflicts of interest on the Board of Australian Wool International (AWI), as reported in the media last year.

As a member of the Australian Senate and given AWI is accountable to the Parliament, I was duly concerned by the reports and any perception that would weaken public confidence in a taxpayer supported body such as AWI.

However, following my early statements and inquiries on the issue, I am now confident and assured that the AWI Board have the proper procedures, scrutiny and enforcement in place regarding matters of conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest of any Board member or employee.

It is now my understanding that, while vigilance is always necessary, the Board is acting with the highest standards on such matters.

Therefore I happily withdraw my call for your resignation (11 March 2010) on the grounds of a perceived conflict of interest. I welcome the expertise you bring to the Board. In fact I congratulate the Board of AWI for taking up the challenge to react to public concern on this important matter and to take steps to remedy any conception or misconception regarding the crucial matter of conflicts of interest.

Regards

Senator Julian McGauran