

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD
AC, GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA TO OPEN "BIG WOOLLY DAY
OUT" AT THE JORDAN RIVER SCHOOL FARM, BRIGHTON,
SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2013**

What a great day this is - "Big Woolly Day Out" - at the Jordan River School Farm. When I first saw the invitation to be here today, I thought that it must be something to do with that giant supermarket, Woolworths. Then I saw that the invitation said that the Big Woolly Day Out was "a unique event to showcase Tasmania's vibrant sheep and wool industries" and I realised that it has nothing to do with today's specials at Woolworths.

Well, it is right to say that Tasmania does have a vibrant wool industry, especially on the properties in the Midlands just to the north of here where some of the finest merino wool in the world is grown. And I think that it is a really good idea to have a special day to remind us all of how important the wool industry is. Did you know that one of the greatest supporters of the wool industry is Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, who is Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son? As you are all well aware, Queen Elizabeth is the Queen of Australia and the Head of Tasmania and one day her eldest son, Prince Charles will be the King of Australia and Head of Tasmania. You may remember, the Prince of Wales visited Tasmania at the end of last year - it rained all the time he was here. Well, as I say, he is a great supporter of the wool industry. The first place he went to when he came to Tasmania was Richmond where he visited a sheep farm and talked up the value of sheep farming. As the Governor of Tasmania, I am the Queen's representative in this State and I too, am a keen supporter of the sheep and wool industry for the same reasons as is the Prince of Wales.

You see, the Prince of Wales reckons that we have to carefully look after the world in which we live, so that there is enough for everybody and we only use the things that can be replaced for someone else to use after us. Wool is so good like that, because it just keeps on growing and growing on the sheep's back and you can shear it off and spin it into fine wool to make clothes, blankets, curtains, chair coverings and many other things and, all the while, more wool keeps on growing on the sheep to make more clothes and more blankets and other things. In other words, it is a renewable resource. The Prince of Wales is a greater supporter of the Campaign for Wool, because wool is a renewable resource and I am sure, if he had been able to get back to Tasmania, he would have been here today to talk to you about all the benefits of wool.

If you go to the "Campaign for Wool" website¹, you will see why the Prince of Wales supports the use of wool. He says that it is a renewable resource – it just keeps on growing even though you cut some off and use it. It is strong and fire resistant. It is easy to look after and can be used to make many different things. When you have finished with it, you can bury it in the ground and it will soon decompose and turn into fertiliser to make the grass grow quickly to feed more sheep that will grow more wool and so on and so on. If you haven't already done so, I urge you to go to the website "Campaign for Wool" and see what the Prince has to say about the importance of wool.

So, the more people there are like you who are learning how to grow big strong sheep, the better the world will be because you are learning the importance of growing a renewable resource – something

¹ <http://campaignforwool.com.au/>

that can be used by men and women and replaced again and again and again. I congratulate Ms Jackie Brown and the Jordan River School Farm on the programmes that are run here and which teach the next generation how to grow, manage and use renewable resources.

Wool certainly is something worth celebrating and - dare I say it, even when a sheep gets a bit too old - or as they say - a bit long in the tooth - it still is important to us because it will make, as Celebrity Chefs MKR Ali and Sam would say, a delicious Baa Baa Q to feed us!

Thank you for asking us to join you today for this great celebration. There is so much to see and do at Big Woolly Day Out, all connected with that wonderful renewable resource - sheep and wool. So I declare the Big Woolly Day Out open and wish you all a great day and a lot of fun.