

## AuctionsPlus weekly sheep and lamb summary – w/e 5 February 2021

Sheep and lamb markets across Australia finally got back into their normal routine this week, after the last six weeks of holiday disruptions and ad-hoc January trading. Larger numbers were felt through most major saleyards, with numbers exclusively offered through AuctionsPlus for the past week falling just short of 125,00 head – up 36% on the previous week.

While the influx of lambs through the physical saleyards was matched by robust demand, buyers continued to fight very hard for anything light, or young with breeding potential. Of note this week was an initial decline for online clearance rates on Tuesday, as several of the larger saleyards, including at Ballarat, Forbes, South Australia Livestock Exchange, and Naracoorte attracted the immediate interest of buyers. However, AuctionsPlus clearance rates increased steadily after the closure of the Tuesday sale, as buyers turned to the online catalogues to fill orders. One feature of the AuctionsPlus system is that transactions may be completed well after the closure of the listed auction – in some instances for several days, as both buyers and sellers revise their expectations to finalise transactions.

With seasonal conditions continuing to look favourable into February, as patchy storms in recent weeks continue to surge across the eastern states, the quality and weight of lambs being offered has been outstanding. Adding to the excellent quality has been the welcome absence of extended heat waves throughout summer – especially compared to the same period last year. As such, any decision pressure to sell lambs in recent weeks has been focused upon finish, quality, and cash flow, as opposed to feed and water.

First cross ewe lamb prices remained robust this week, averaging \$267/head - up \$37/head on the previous week, with 11,482 head exclusively offered. However, the clearance rate for this category finished the week at 57% - as the reserves set from vendors remained beyond the willingness of many buyers.

Merino ewe lambs registered an 86% clearance rate for the week, averaging \$192/head - a reflection of the relative scarcity of available lines (4,436 head) and the continued desire to attain young breeders. Interestingly, SIL Merino ewes, with 20,480 head offered for the week, only registered a 49% clearance rate - averaging \$241/head, back \$29/head on last week. Further analysis showed that age discrimination is well and truly at work, with the younger lines in hot demand, while older, heavier lines were seeing a wider bid-offer spread

**Note – all prices reported below are as at the close of reporting of 5pm, Thursday 4th February.**

For more categories, please go to:

[Store Report - Sheep and Lamb – National AuctionsPlus Sheep and Lamb Report](#)

[Sheep Averages 02/02/2021 – Sheep and Lamb Stock Category Averages](#)

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual €/kg lwt	Change
<b>Lambs</b>										
<i>crossbreds</i>	7,493	127	194	162	2	97%	372	536	437	4
<i>Merino wethers</i>	18,417	105	183	136	-1	86%	333	502	393	-27
<i>first cross ewe</i>	11,482	175	385	267	37	57%	368	785	613	-23
<i>Merino ewe</i>	4,436	142	236	192	9	86%	376	577	479	-79
<i>shedding breeds</i>	10,137	161	371	239	-50	65%	392	903	611	-41
<i>multi purpose lambs</i>	12,181	126	250	176	-17	92%	375	673	456	-21
<i>composite/other breeds</i>	14,190	154	230	171	10	73%	435	467	455	-4
<b>Sheep</b>										
<i>Merino ewes - lambs at foot</i>	550	280	301	291	-	24%	488	533	510	-
<i>Merino wethers</i>	1,090	120	186	153	-12	90%	228	305	266	-70
<b>Scanned in lamb (SIL)</b>										
<i>Merino ewes</i>	20,480	85	350	241	-29	49%	189	564	376	-28
<i>first cross ewe</i>	2,379	275	467	347	56	56%	291	610	435	22
<b>Non Station Mated (NSM)</b>										
<i>Merino hogget ewes</i>	4,412	198	405	278	-17	44%	385	701	541	6
<i>Merino ewes</i>	12,456	130	317	235	-23	78%	253	525	393	-64
<i>first cross ewe</i>	2,852	210	240	226	-62	34%	267	431	363	-147
<i>composite/other breeds</i>	2,406	180	396	262	5	52%	256	626	446	-8

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