

## News

# Tassie fleeces highly prized

KAROLIN MacGREGOR

TASMANIAN wool growers have taken out second and third place in this year's annual Ermenegildo Zegna fleece awards.

The event marked a special milestone for the company, which ran its 50th fleece competition.

Long-time competitors Allan and Carol Phillips, from Glen Stuart at Deddington, picked up second place in the awards with a score of 95.50 points.

Third place went to Mary and Warwick O'Connor, from Windfalls near Campbell Town, who earned a score of 94.70 points.

There were 66 entries in this year's Zegna trophy section, including 20 from Tasmania.

Mr Phillips, who attended the official awards dinner, said they were thrilled to take home second place.

"We're very happy to get second place," he said.

"It's a very good competition



**THRILLED:** Allan and Carol Phillips, from Glen Stuart at Deddington, picked up second place in the Ermenegildo Zegna fleece awards.

Picture: ROSS MARSDEN

and there are entries from all the major superfine wool growing areas in eastern Australia."

Mr Phillips said the fleece that earned them second place was shorn off a wether that had been running on native pastures on the property.

Mr Phillips, who does all the wool classing at Glen Stuart, said he always kept an eye out for possible competition fleeces.

"They don't measure the micron, but this fleece had a really nice amount of crimp," he said.

Mr Phillips said wool grown

on native pastures was often more even in style than wool produced on more improved grasses.

"The wool tends to be cleaner when it comes off the native pastures and less dusty," he said.

"It also seems to grow more

evenly, as long as the sheep is travelling well."

Mr Phillips said he normally chose fleeces that had plenty of style and were likely to stand out.

"You want a fleece that's got quite a bit of style and something that will catch your

eye, and at the same time it also has to have enough weight and yield well," he said.

The winning fleece in this year's Zegna Trophy section was produced by Ed and Jill Hundy, from the Windradeen property at Mudgee in New South Wales.

# Regional heat on biosecurity review

ROGER HANSON

TASMANIA'S primary producers are calling for regional differences to be recognised in biosecurity laws.

Powerful submissions to the most far-reaching review of Australian biosecurity law changes in more than a century were given at Parliament House in Hobart.

The Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, chaired by Senator Lin Thorp, is considering draft legislation to supersede the Quarantine Act of 1908.

The Primary Industry Biosecurity Action Alliance, a diverse group of 18 primary producers formed in 2010, wants regional differences to be formally recognised.

Alliance spokesman Terry Brient said Australia respected the rights of foreign countries to set regional zones based on quarantine status.

"In Tasmania a primary industry can be the mainstay of a regional community," Mr Brient said.

David Sanderson, from Wine



**FRANCES BENDER:** "Quality is not a minimum standard."

Tasmania, said biosecurity was not about protection of trade.

"The Tasmanian brand is an inter-generational national asset, which is under threat without safeguards for regional differences," Mr Sanderson said.

Frances Bender, co-owner and director of the Huon Aquaculture Group, said biosecurity was the key issue facing all primary industries and the natural environment in Tasmania.

"We are in a special environment that needs to be supported

by appropriate mechanisms to protect and keep it safe for future generations," Mrs Bender said.

"Effectively it's what is special about Brand Tasmania."

The Huon Aquaculture Group is Australia's largest privately owned salmon farming business, harvesting 40 per cent of salmon produced in the country.

"Quality is not a minimum standard," Mrs Bender said.

Prominent fruit-grower Tim Reid, of Reid Fruits, said the issue of full cost recovery burden on producers caused considerable concern for industry.

"The delivery of biosecurity is to the advantage of the general population," Mr Reid said. "It is not just there to protect growers, farmers, harvesters and producers."

Senator Richard Colbeck said Australia was pricing itself out of the market because of the Government.

Australian Greens Leader Christine Milne said until the regulations that underpin the legislation were released, no one would have confidence that the

legislation would deliver improvements the community wants.

Senator Thorp said there was significant support for reform to bring biosecurity protections into the modern age.

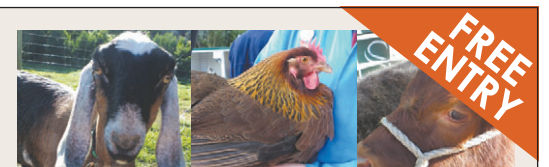
"The resulting legislation will be responsible for protecting primary industries, the environment and local economies from pest and disease risks for many years to come," Senator Thorp said.

The inquiry heard from representatives from Australia's peak vegetable growers group AusVeg, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Cherry Growers Australia and Brand Tasmania.

Opposition primary industries spokesman Jeremy Rockliff said an updated biosecurity Bill was vital to important primary industries.

One in six Tasmanian workers are employed directly or indirectly in primary industries, with a farm gate value of \$1.2 billion.

The eight-person committee should hand its findings down in six weeks.



FREE ENTRY

## Rural Living Round-up

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This project is supported by Cradle Coast NRM, through funding from the Australian Government's Regional Landcare Facilitator Program