



The Place To Be

# Media Release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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## **ALL SHEEP TO BE NLIS TAGGED FROM 1 JANUARY 2009**

Victorian sheepmeat producers and wool growers are reminded that new National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tagging requirements commence nationally on 1 January 2009.

The Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) Manager of the Animal Standards Branch, Tony Britt, says all sheep, as well as meat and fibre producing goats, that are leaving a property must be identified with an NLIS (Sheep) tag from 1 January 2009.

"A tagging exemption for sheep and goats sent to an abattoir on an 'over the hooks' basis and for old sheep and goats has operated since the commencement of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats)," Dr Britt said.

"These exemptions will be removed this Thursday, following national agreement between the sheep and goat industries and State and Commonwealth governments.

"There is national agreement that the tagging exemptions for dairy goat breeds, and also for feral goats consigned directly to slaughter, should continue.

"The NLIS (Sheep) tags that are used must be printed with the Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property on which the sheep or goats are being tagged.

"Breeders are encouraged to use NLIS (Sheep) breeder tags that are the correct 'year of birth' colour.

"The 'year of birth' colour for 2009 is white. A pink NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tag should be used to identify sheep and goats that are yet to be tagged but have already left their properties of birth.

"Consignors of sheep and goats must provide a correctly completed National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form to the person receiving their livestock.

"It is generally accepted that enhancements are needed to the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) to improve the performance of the system. Victoria's Sheep and Goats Identification Advisory Committee (SIAC) is overseeing the implementation of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) in Victoria."

Dr Britt said the SIAC will meet in the New Year to discuss proposed enhancements.

"It is important to appreciate that the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) will evolve," he said.

”Monitoring, periodic reviews and the introduction of enhancements will be features of this process.”

For further information about the operation of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats), please visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis) or call 1800 678 779 during business hours.