

## QUARTERLY REPORT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

This paper is an executive summary of the formal quarterly report made by The New Zealand Merino Company (NZM) to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) regarding the New Zealand Sheep Industry Transformation (NZSTX) project for the quarter ending 30 September 2014.

**Fibre** – Work this quarter has focused on developing technical validation materials about the attributes of New Zealand Merino fibre. Further progress with both new and existing fibre trials is expected in the second quarter.

**Meat** – We remain on track for all targets, with higher volumes (both in processing and sales) expected in the second and third quarters.

**Leather** – Progress on leather has paused as we work to resolve some supply chain issues.

**Production Science** – We remain on track for key targets in the production science programme:

- Forage – trials continue, with reports due by 30 June 2015.
- Trait acceleration – the new season's drop of lambs have been born at the central progeny test (CPT) site this quarter. Monitoring and measuring of these lambs (as well as the 2013 progeny) will continue. In addition, the second season of nucleus flock progeny are due during late Q1 / early Q2.
- Animal health – good progress continues to be made with the FeetFirst project (development of a genomic breeding value for resistance to footrot).
- Adoption – the key event this quarter was the 'Designer Genes' field day at Amberley in July, showcasing the CPT progeny and presenting results from the trait acceleration and animal health components of the programme.