



19 JUL, 2021

## World leader in genetics calls it a day

Country Leader Tamworth - insert, Tamworth

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MINISTER for Agriculture Adam Marshall has congratulated Dr Robert Banks on his esteemed career as a leader of the livestock industry, after the Director of the Board of the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) announced his retirement.

AGBU is a collaboration between the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the University of New England which conducts research and development into the application of genetic technologies in livestock industries. Mr Marshall thanked Dr Banks, who has led the AGBU since 2012, for his tireless work in the sector.

"I strongly commend Dr Robert Banks for his service to the industry and considerable contribution to genetic improvements of our nation's livestock industries during a period of rapid change," Mr Marshall said.

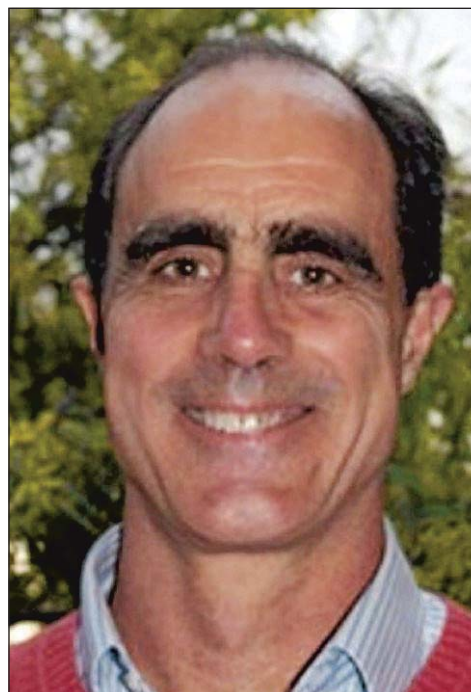
"Dr Banks has been a leader in the genetic improvement of Australia's livestock industries, having also worked for Meat and Livestock Australia for nearly 25 years prior to joining AGBU as Director.

"Since its inception four decades ago, AGBU has underpinned R&D for modern genetic evaluation systems with its economic benefits estimated at more than \$2 billion since 2000.

"In the late 1980s Dr Banks led the development of the genetic evaluation system for the Australian Meat Sheep industry and to-

gether with his colleagues' made us a world leader in the amazing technology that is genetic improvements."

Dr Steve Miller will be the Acting Director for AGBU.



Dr Robert Banks.