

## AuctionsPlus weekly Sheep and Lamb summary – w/e 26 February 2021

The supply of sheep and lambs exclusively offered through AuctionsPlus this week contracted 13%, to 84,228 head – the second consecutive weekly decline following the very high throughput from the first two weeks of the month. Overall, the market was lower despite the contraction in supply, with 9 of the 14 indicative prices declining on last week.

The consistent weekly markets and absence of holiday disruptions through February helps to provide a clear indication of the level of confidence within the market. Overall sentiment, while still very strong, is clearly anchored to a rebuilding slant, with the absence of prime breeding stock through the market accentuated in recent week. This growth sentiment also links to the sustained positive seasonal conditions heading into autumn, with the latest rainfall outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology through to May continuing to point to wetter than normal conditions.

One lamb price category to register an increase in supply this week was Merino wethers, with an additional 12% offered – with the average price slipping \$14/head, to \$134/head. In contrast, a 31% decline in the number of first cross ewe lambs offered, at 5,904 head, had the price jumping \$26/head on last week, averaging \$276/head.

Merino ewe lambs averaged the week down \$35/head, at \$174/head, while 2,874 crossbred lambs finished the week back slightly, at \$174/head.

The 20% decline in the number of SIL Merino ewes offered online this week failed to help support prices, with the average price slipping \$30/head, to \$239/head. Interestingly, the clearance rate for reported SIL categories continues to be well below many of the other lines, despite the clear desire for suitable breeding lines. The 62% and 59% clearance rate this week for SIL Merino ewes and first cross ewes, respectively, points to sellers holding firm on the value they have placed upon these lines, as buyers remain hesitant to dig deeper into their pockets.

NSM Merino ewes finished the week \$3/head higher, averaging \$232/head, with almost an additional 1,000 head offered.

**Note: all prices reported below are as at the close of reporting of 5pm, Thursday 25th February**

For more categories, please go to:

[National AuctionsPlus Store Report - Sheep and Lamb](#)  
[Sheep Averages 23/02/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual ¢/kg lwt	Change
<b>Lambs</b>										
crossbreds	2,874	153	202	174	-1	78%	391	502	436	-30
Merino wethers	12,872	80	178	134	-14	77%	335	527	409	10
first cross ewe	5,904	161	412	276	26	59%	390	728	577	74
Merino ewe	4,498	115	292	174	-35	95%	379	638	514	11
shedding breeds	1,956	180	317	235	-60	80%	426	698	546	-89
composite/other breeds	7,669	147	280	194	88	77%	294	628	478	-82
<b>Sheep</b>										
Merino ewes - lambs at foot	89	320	320	320	-43	100%	641	641	641	-49
Merino wethers	2,721	130	194	167	16	100%	275	354	317	24
<b>Scanned in lamb (SIL)</b>										
Merino ewes	20,760	140	366	239	-30	62%	198	685	383	-73
first cross ewe	6,087	205	427	305	-9	59%	330	586	429	-29
<b>Non Station Mated (NSM)</b>										
Merino hogget ewes	1,213	200	301	256	0	77%	522	607	552	61
Merino ewes	10,850	124	354	232	3	62%	219	618	415	-40
first cross ewe	650	226	333	280	-8	27%	352	510	431	-85
composite/other breeds	3,103	200	431	281	-100	66%	273	543	418	49

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