Shearing Contractors Association of Australia

Enquiries: call 0412 600 586 email: scaa@scaa.org.au www.scaa.org.au

Pastoral Award 2020 as at 1 Jul 2026

print edition 20260619

(replaces 'Pay Scale', 'Transitional' & 'State' Award' rates)

Rates below become Effective from 1 July 2026. Award based on a 38 hour / 19 runs per week.

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SHEARERS – not found	100.00%	PER 100	Double fleeced x1 1/3	Hand Shearing x1.075	Shearers provide own stud combs x 1.25
Flock sheep (wethers, ewes and lambs)		$409.96	$546.61	$440.71	$512.45
Rams (more than 6 months old (other than special stud rams)) and ram stags		$819.92	$1,093.23	$881.41	$1,024.90
Stud ewes and their lambs		$512.45	$683.27	$550.88	$640.56

Special Studs: not covered by this payscale

Any Shearers that are required to provide their own stud combs will be paid 25% additional to the rate of each class of sheep.

	Found	Not found
Engagement by the day:	$264.23	$306.28

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Learner Shearers (Includes Learner's comb & cutter allowance)	$24.35
Per run	$79.36
Per Day	$317.43
Per week	$1,507.79

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

CRUTCHERS – not found	Flock Sheep AT SHEDS	Flock Sheep OTHER THAN AT SHEDS	Stud Ewes and Lambs AT SHEDS	Stud Ewes and Lambs OTHER THAN AT SHEDS
Full Crutching at sheds	$118.89	$102.49	$148.61	$128.11
All other Crutching at Sheds	$94.29	$81.99	$117.86	$102.49
Wigging or ringing	$45.10	$45.10	$56.37	$56.37
Wigging or ringing in addition to crutching	$12.30	$12.30	$15.37	$15.37
Wigging and ringing	$73.79	$73.79	$92.24	$92.24
Wigging and ringing in addition to Crutching (Crutching rate plus)	$20.50	$20.50	$25.62	$25.62
Cleaning Bellies of ewes -2 blows. (Crutching rate plus)	$10.25	$10.25	$12.81	$12.81

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

Shearers or Crutchers		per day	per week
Engagement by the day:	Not found	$306.28	$1,531.40
	Found	$264.23	$1,321.15
*Lack of Amenities , (per day per person per day will be paid for the lack of amenities when crutching is performed other than at sheds)		$13.62	

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SHED HANDS – not found (Min 2 runs on wet vote or cut out)	SCAA	per run	per day (7.30am to 5.06pm)	per week (19 Runs or 4.75 days)
Adults – with 65 work days or more experience		$78.14	$312.56	$1,484.66
Adults – with less than 65 days work experience		$74.25	$297.00	$1,410.75
Juniors – 18-20 years with 65 work days or more experience		$70.33	$281.30	$1,336.19
Juniors – 18-20 with less than 65 work days experience		$66.83	$267.30	$1,269.68
Juniors – Under 18 years with 65 work days or more experience		$54.70	$218.79	$1,039.26
Juniors – Under 18 with less than 65 work days experience		$51.98	$207.90	$987.53
IF FOUND – Rates above less		-$10.51	-$42.05	-$210.25

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

WOOLPRESSERS - not found (paid by the run if less than contract rate)

By Contract 1751.85	Per KG	Per Bale (< Av153kg)
By Hand	$0.1642	$25.03
By Power	$0.1095	$16.69
Weighing and Branding .		$0.56
Stacking Bales – additional rates as agreed.		

Paid by the run (timework)

		per run	per day (7.30am to 5.06pm)	per week (19 Runs or 4.75 days)
Not found		$82.77	$331.08	$1,572.63
Found		$72.26	$289.03	$1,372.89

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

FOUND DEDUCTION

Shearers, Crutchers, Shed Hands, Woolpressers: The day rate less -$42.05 per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

COOKS - found (paid the higher of "per man per day" or 'daily' rate)

Per man per day $26.02 Wage Guarantee $339.22 per day

First Aid Allowance An employee designated by the employer to render first aid in addition to his or her usual duties and who is the current holder of a recognised first aid qualification (usually the woolclasser) $3.70 per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

Breakdown Allowance (shearer, crutcher & piece-work presser) Found $197.94 Not found $239.99 per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SLEEPING QUARTERS ALLOWANCE

Sleeping quarters allowance	$68.59 per night
Allowance for travelling in excess of 1 hour per day from Sleep Qtrs to shed	$22.63 per hour

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR SUBURBAN SHEARERS OR CRUTCHERS

Travelling in excess of 65kms between shed and normal residence (i.e. 130km total) $20.36 per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

VEHICLE ALLOWANCE FOR ALL SUBURBAN EMPLOYEES $1.00 per km

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SGC (Super) 12.00% OF GROSS WAGE MUST BE PAID INTO AN APPROVED SUPER FUND

Prime Super proudly sponsors the SCAA

Estimated increase in labour cost at 1 July 2026: Approximately 5.0%. (note:Non labour costs may have risen by more, in some cases)

Note: weekly rates are based on 19 runs or 4.75 days

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

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Pastoral Award 2020 cont. (Woolclassers) as at 1 July 2026

replaces 'Transitional Woolclassers Award' print edition 20260619

Rates listed below become effective from 1 July 2026

100%

1. Employment of Experts and Woolclassers will be by the day unless a longer period of engagement is agreed. Unless the Woolclasser or Expert has been notified the previous day that their attendance is not required for that day, then providing they present themselves as ready, to work prior to commencement of work, then they will be paid for that day at one fifth of the appropriate minimum weekly rate

2. Woolclassers and Shearing Shed Experts are FOUND Employees

Note: Woolclasser or Shearing shed expert are "Expeditionary employees" who are entitled to free board and lodging.

3. RATES OF PAY — WOOLCLASSERS

PIECEWORK RATE $477.03 per thousand fleeces.(All rams and/or ram stag's wool classed will be paid for at double the above rate).

The GUARANTEED WEEKLY MINIMUM:

The employer shall pay the Woolclasser at the following rates if the piecework earnings from woolclassing over of the whole of the employment fall short of the relevant weekly amount for the same period.

Classification	Minimum Daily Rate	Minimum Weekly Rates
Woolclasser 1:	$353.50	$1,767.50
Woolclassing duties only, as per award		
Woolclasser 2:	$381.62	$1,908.10
Duties as for WI above, plus woolrolling and/or other shedhands work, as per award Note: Wool rolling shall NOT be performed in a shed where more than 900 fleeces are shorn per day		
Woolclasser 3:	$399.96	$1,999.80
Duties as for W2 above, plus overseeing and/or Bookkeeping and/or experting, as per award		
EXPERT		
Classification		
Expert 1:	$318.07	$1,590.35
Exporting duties only, as per award		
Expert 2:	$353.50	$1,767.50
Duties for El above, plus woolrolling and/or other shedhand work and/or overseeing and/or bookkeeping, as per award		

4. FARES & TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR EXPEDITIONARY EMPLOYEES

Motor Vehicle allowance **$1.00** cents per kilometer.

5. TRAVEL

Woolclasser employees shall be reimbursed for all fares

An allowance at the rate of $104.77 per day

Woolclasser employees shall be paid by the employer to the employee for all expenses incurred (other than fares)

An allowance at the rate of $4.36 per hour **$104.64** per whole day

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SCAA Recommended Pay Rate Schedule

115%

print edition 20260619

as at 1 July 2025 based on Pastoral Award +15%

Note - Any rates listed below, that are higher than the Pastoral Award rates, are NON BINDING and are only guide, where above Award rates are required

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SHEARERS – not found	115%	PER 100	Double fleeced x1 1/3	Hand Shearing x1.075	Shearers provide own stud combs x 1.25
Flock sheep (wethers, ewes and lambs)		$471.45	$628.61	$506.81	$589.32
Rams (more than 6 months old (other than special stud rams)) and ram stags		$942.91	$1,257.21	$1,013.63	$1,178.64
Stud ewes and their lambs		$589.32	$785.76	$633.52	$736.65

Special Studs: not covered by this payscale

Any Shearers that are required to provide their own stud combs will be paid 25% additional to the rate of each class of sheep.

	Found	Not found
Engagement by the day:	$295.74	$337.79

SCAA

Learner Shearers (Includes Learner's comb & cutter allowance)	$24.35
Per run	$91.08
Per Day	$364.31
Per week	$1,730.49

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

CRUTCHERS – not found	Flock Sheep		Stud Ewes and Lambs	
	AT SHEDS	OTHER THAN AT SHEDS	AT SHEDS	OTHER THAN AT SHEDS
Full Crutching at sheds	$136.72	$117.86	$170.90	$147.33
All other Crutching at Sheds	$108.43	$94.29	$135.54	$117.86
Wigging or ringing	$51.86	$51.86	$64.82	$64.82
Wigging or ringing in addition to crutching	$14.14	$14.14	$17.68	$17.68
Wigging and ringing	$84.86	$84.86	$106.08	$106.08
Wigging and ringing in addition to Crutching (Crutching rate plus)	$23.57	$23.57	$29.47	$29.47
Cleaning Bellies of ewes -2 blows. (Crutching rate plus)	$11.79	$11.79	$14.73	$14.73

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

Shearers or Crutchers		per day	per week
Engagement by the day:	Not found	$337.79	$1,688.95
	Found	$295.74	$1,478.70
*Lack of Amenities , (per day per person per day will be paid for the lack of amenities when crutching is performed other than at sheds)		$12.85	

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SHED HANDS – not found (Min 2runs on wet vote or cut out)	SCAA per run	per day (7.30am to 5.06pm)	per week (19 Runs or 4.75 days)
Adults – with 65 work days or more experience	$89.86	$359.44	$1,707.36
Adults – with less than 65 days work experience	$71.76	$287.04	$1,363.44
Juniors – 18-20 years with 65 work days or more experience	$80.87	$323.50	$1,536.62
Juniors – 18-20 with less than 65 work days experience	$64.58	$258.34	$1,227.10
Juniors – Under 18 years with 65 work days or more experience	$62.90	$251.61	$1,195.15
Juniors – Under 18 with less than 65 work days experience	$50.23	$200.93	$954.41
IF FOUND – Rates above less	-$10.51	-$42.05	-$210.25

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

WOOLPRESSERS - not found (paid by the run if less than contract rate)

By Contract 1925.8015	Per KG	Per Bale (< Av153kg)
By Hand	$0.1805	$27.51
By Power	$0.1203	$18.34
Weighing and Branding .		$0.61
Stacking Bales – additional rates as agreed.		

Paid by the run (timework)

		per run	per day (7.30am to 5.06pm)	per week (19 Runs or 4.75 days)
Not found		$95.19	$380.74	$1,808.52
Found		$84.67	$338.69	$1,608.79

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

FOUND DEDUCTION

Shearers, Crutchers, Shed Hands, Woolpressers: The day rate less **-$42.05** per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

COOKS - found (paid the higher of "per man per day" or 'daily' rate

Per man per day **$29.92** Wage Guarantee **$390.10** per day

First Aid Allowance An employee designated by the employer to render first aid in addition to his or her usual duties and who is the current holder of a recognised first aid qualification (usually the woolclasser) **$3.49** per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

Breakdown Allowance (shearer, crutcher & piece-work presser) Found **$188.10** Not found **$230.15** per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SLEEPING QUARTERS ALLOWANCE

Sleeping quarters allowance	$68.59 per night
Allowance for travelling in excess of 1 hour per day from Sleep Qtrs to shed	$22.63 per hour

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR SUBURBAN SHEARERS OR CRUTCHERS

Travelling in excess of 65kms between shed and normal residence (i.e. 130km total) **$20.36** per day

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

VEHICLE ALLOWANCE FOR ALL SUBURBAN EMPLOYEES **$1.00** per km

(Prepared by the Shearing Contractors Assoc Aust SCAA)

SGC (Super) 12.00% OF GROSS WAGE MUST BE PAID INTO AN APPROVED SUPER FUND

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Estimated increase in labour cost at 1 July 2026: Approximately 5.0%. (note:Non labour costs may have risen by more, in some cases)

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Note: weekly rates are based on 19 runs or 4.75 days

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115%

as at 1 July 2026 based on Pastoral Award +15%

print edition 20260619

WoolClasser Rates

Note - Any rates listed below, that are higher than the Pastoral Award rates, are NON BINDING and are only guide, where above Award rates are required

1. Employment of Experts and Woolclassers will be by the day unless a longer period of engagement is agreed. Unless the Woolclasser or Expert has been notified the previous day that their attendance is not required for that day, then providing they present themselves as ready, to work prior to commencement of work, then they will be paid for that day at one fifth of the appropriate minimum weekly rate

2. Woolclassers and Shearing Shed Experts are FOUND Employees

Note: Woolclasser or Shearing shed expert are "Expeditionary employees" who are entitled to free board and lodging.

3. RATES OF PAY — WOOLCLASSERS

PIECEWORK RATE $548.58 per thousand fleeces.(All rams and/or ram stag's wool classed will be paid for at double the above rate).

The GUARANTEED WEEKLY MINIMUM:

The employer shall pay the Woolclasser at the following rates if the piecework earnings from woolclassing over of the whole of the employment fall short of the relevant weekly amount for the same period.

	Minimum	
Classification	Daily Rate	Weekly Rates
Woolclasser 1:	$406.53	$2,032.63
Woolclassing duties only, as per award		
Woolclasser 2:	$438.86	$2,194.32
Duties as for WI above, plus woolrolling and/or other shedhands work, as per award Note: Wool rolling shall NOT be performed in a shed where more than 900 fleeces are shorn per day		
Woolclasser 3:	$459.95	$2,299.77
Duties as for W2 above, plus overseeing and/or Bookkeeping and/or experting, as per award		
EXPERT Classification		
Expert 1:	$365.78	$1,828.90
Exporting duties only, as per award		
Expert 2:	$406.53	$2,032.63
Duties for El above, plus woolrolling and/or other shedhands work, and/or overseeing, and/or bookkeeping. - as per award		

4. FARES & TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR EXPEDITIONARY EMPLOYEES

Motor Vehicle allowance **$1.00** cents per kilometer.

5. TRAVEL

Woolclasser employees shall be reimbursed for all fares

An allowance at the rate of $104.77 per day

Woolclasser employees shall be paid by the employer to the employee for all expenses incurred (other than fares)

An allowance at the rate of $4.36 per hour **$104.64** per whole day

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