

Public Consultation

Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines

Instructions for writing your own submission

Animal Health Australia (AHA) and the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) are conducting public consultation relating to the development of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock ('Land Transport Standards'), and its associated Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). DAFF and AHA are particularly interested to hear how well you believe:

- ➔ the Draft Land Transport Standards *make the necessary specifications* for protecting the welfare of livestock while being transported on land; and
- ➔ the associated Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIS) *demonstrates the need* for the Standards and *identifies its key costs and benefits* for industry, government, and the wider community.

DAFF and AHA welcome your comments on those two main points. **Please note:** the focus of this consultation process is limited to the *land transport* of livestock, and does not consider issues associated with the live export of livestock. Further information about animal welfare standards for the live export of livestock can be found at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/export-trade/v2-1>.

Who is this consultation for?

The public consultation builds on consultative processes involving key stakeholders in drafting the Land Transport Standards, which commenced in November 2006. That process has included a range of formal and informal activities, including formation and operation of the Land Transport Standards Reference Group (SRG), which liaises with the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG). The SRG is comprised of key stakeholders who have formal responsibility for livestock transport and/or who would be most directly affected by the Land Transport Standards (representing the cattle, sheep/wool, pig, poultry, horse, goat, emu/ostrich industries; livestock transporters; saleyards; lot feeders; veterinarians; animal welfare organizations; and government agencies). Representatives from many of these stakeholder groups have met several times and have had roles in assisting with drafting the Land Transport Standards.

At the 6th meeting of the SRG, final preparations were made for releasing the Draft Land Transport Standards. While a number of outstanding issues were identified and for which full consensus could not be reached, the SRG agreed that the Draft Standards could proceed to public consultation. These outstanding issues will be of particular interest to AHA and DAFF when making final revisions to the document after the public consultation process. These issues are included as Appendix 8 in the RIS Summary, which forms part of this Kit.

The public consultation phase now seeks views from a range of people interested in the land transport of livestock, including those people directly or indirectly affected by the implementation of the Land Transport Standards and/or who have not yet had the opportunity to comment on the Land Transport Standards or the RIS to date. Once the formal public consultation is complete, there will be further meetings of the SRG and the AWWG, where submissions from this consultation process will be considered.

How will my written submission be processed?

You may participate in this consultation process by (1) completing a survey or (2) preparing your own submission. All submissions will be acknowledged by email or letter. All submissions (in survey or written form) will be considered public documents.

Once the public consultation closes, all comments (in survey form or full written submissions) will be considered carefully by Animal Health Australia (AHA) and the Standards Reference Group (SRG). In considering the consultation responses (surveys and written submissions), AHA and the SRG will be particularly interested in *how* satisfied stakeholders and the interested public are that the Draft Land Transport Standards adequately specify requirements for safe transport of livestock on land and that the RIS has adequately identified the costs and benefits of the Land Transport Standards and demonstrated the need for the Standards.

Assessment of feedback from the consultation processes will give due consideration to:

- the extent to which suggestions strengthen the intent and objectives of the Standards;
- the volume and variety of responses indicating such a change (i.e. not just a form letter based on a campaign);
- anticipated adverse impacts from the suggested changes; and
- the viability of implementing the change.

The Land Transport Standards Reference Group will then recommend particular changes to the Land Transport Standards and/or the RIS to the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG). In turn, the AWWG will pass on its recommendations to those Ministerial Committees responsible for approving animal welfare regulations. (See flow chart attached).

A summary of consultation responses will be made publicly available on the Animal Welfare Standards Consultation website (www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au) for a period after the consultation closes.

How to prepare your written submission.

You have chosen to prepare your own submission. Your submission should be clear and concise, preferably typewritten and submitted as an original by mail, fax or email by 27 May 2008 to:

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation
PO Box 196
DICKSON ACT 2602
consultation@animalwelfarestandards.net.au
Fax: (07) 5429 8486

(Please note: Postal address is in ACT, however faxes are being compiled in QLD)

Any submissions received after 5pm on 27 May 2008 will not be considered.

What to include.

Each submission must include:

- Your name and address – including the State or Territory where you reside, (and email address where possible);
- Names of any additional contributors to the submission who wish to be acknowledged;
- Contact telephone numbers in case we need to clarify any points, obtain additional information or advise if the submission appears incomplete (missing pages etc); and
- The occupation/sector that best describes you (please select *one* category from the list below):

Animal transporter
Animal welfare or
Animal rights organisation
Feedlot operator/staff
Home duties/childcare
Livestock producer
(please indicate what species: cattle,
sheep, pigs, poultry, horses, deer,
camels, buffalo, goats, alpacas,
emus/ostriches)

Processor
Public servant
Retiree
Research scientists
Sale yard operator/staff
Stock agent
Student
Training provider
Veterinarian
Other (please specify)

Please note: These details *must be included* in order for us to process your submission. We have requested your name and details to ensure you are notified when a summary of the public consultation is made publicly available on the Animal Welfare Standards consultation website for a period after the consultation closes. In addition, these details are vitally important to helping DAFF and AHA evaluate the effectiveness of this public consultation process.

Your submission should address the key issues being addressed in this consultation process, namely whether you believe that:

- the Draft Land Transport Land Transport Standards **make the necessary specifications** for protecting the welfare of livestock while being transported on land; and/or
- the associated Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIS) **demonstrates the need** for the Land Transport Standards and **identifies its key costs and benefits** for industry, government, and the wider community.

Please note: the focus of this consultation process is limited to the *land transport* of livestock, and does not consider issues associated with the live export of livestock.

For the Draft Land Transport Standard:

- Responsibilities for Livestock Transport
- Stock handling competencies
- Transport vehicles and facilities for livestock
- Pre-transport preparation of livestock
- Loading, transport and unloading of livestock
- Humane destruction of livestock
- Specific requirements in relation to:

- Alpacas
- Buffalo
- Camels
- Cattle
- Deer

- Goats
- Horses
- Pigs
- Poultry
- Sheep

For the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

Comments on the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

In addition, submissions should include specific information that will help Animal Health Australia (AHA), the Standards Reference Group (SRG), the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG), and other key decision makers consider the points being made. Any scientific, technical or other evidence used to support those points should include full references and copies of material referred to. If it is not possible to include full references, then as much detail on those sources as possible should be provided.

We would like to thank you for your time assisting us with this consultation process.

