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AUSTRALIAN LOT FEEDERS' ASSOCIATION

08th April 2013

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation
Locked Bag 3006
DEAKIN WEST, ACT 2600
publicconscattle@animalwelfarestandards.net.au

To whom it may concern,

Re; Draft Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines - Cattle

ALFA, as the peak national body for the feedlot industry, would like to express our support for the draft Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines-Cattle.

We have been actively involved during the development of the abovementioned document through participation on both the Standards Reference Group and the Writing Group, the two forums who have been charged with this task. In addition, we have actively encouraged the industry to participate in the public consultation process through correspondence with our members via our newsletter, emails and our website.

A review of the Model Codes of Practice (MCOP) in 2005 recommended that these be converted into legislated Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. ALFA has been a firm supporter of this development. Whilst the feedlot industry's quality assurance program, the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme will always impose independently auditable requirements that exceed that of legislation, we nonetheless look forward to the animal welfare standards being finalised so they can be incorporated as an auditable requirement to underpin the program.

We also consider the public consultation process a valuable part of the standards and guidelines development process. To this end, ALFA would like to take the opportunity to express our support for the proposed cattle document and its respective Regulatory Impact Statement.

Kind regards,

Dougal Gordon
CEO

CC. Robin Vandergraaff