



Far North Coast Dairy Industry Group Inc.
ABN: 54 071 729 379

**SUBMISSION ON DRAFT AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
FOR CATTLE**

To Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation
Sent by email to publicconscattle@animalwelfarestandards.net.au

This submission is written on behalf of DIG FNC Dairy Industry Group and represents 88 dairy farmers on the Far North Coast of New South Wales.

Dairy farmers have strived over time to engage our industry with progressive animal welfare management. Dairy farmers have always proudly recognised the benefits of improved animal welfare and this commitment can be recognised in attendances at the various farm extension field days.

- We are totally committed to a nationally uniform approach to animal welfare standards and fully support **OPTION B** in the regulatory Impact Statement.
- This option is based on current science and provides a clear and consistent outcome for the dairy industry.

Disbudding & Dehorning

S6.5 - We full support the benefits of disbudding Paste, there are considerable benefits to both farmers and animals with this method. Scientific research has highlighted the benefits and recognises that if managed and applied correctly causes less pain than other methods.

- Minimal restraint to the animal is required
- Cost effective and easy to manage
- Applied when calves are less that 14 days old

Dogs on dairy farms

Dairy farmers recognise the fact that any dog that is used on a dairy must be suitable to work with dairy cattle. Many generations of breeding have enabled suitable characteristics in working dogs for dairy farms. We do NOT see any need for regulation in this area.

Calving Induction

While not general practice in our region we recognise the benefits to some calving patterns. We believe it is managed effectively by the provision of standard **S7.3** that requires veterinary oversight to ensure procedures are followed and **S7.4** ensuring adequate colostrum or humanely put down at the first opportunity.

Tail Docking S9.3

We fully support the banning of tail docking unless it is for treatment of an injury or disease.

We do not support alternative options for the dairy industry included as variations in the Regulatory Impact Statement.

Leigh Shearman Chairperson
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