

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle Public Consultation
Submission from the Victorian Farmers Federation

I write on behalf of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) to provide feedback regarding the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle.

The VFF recognises the importance of the objectives of the Standards and Guidelines, to protect and maintain the welfare of cattle in Australia, and to harmonise regulations across state jurisdictions.

From the options considered in the RIS, we support the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle as drafted – *Option B*, but with consideration given to the following amendment to the beginning of standard S11.2:

*“A person must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills to be able to **safely and** humanely kill cattle, or be under the **direct supervision** of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills”*

The VFF also has further concerns regarding the implementation of the Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines.

We are concerned that any benefit obtained through replacing the current Model Codes of Practice with Standards and Guidelines will be of limited assistance if state regulators are unable to provide adequate funds to enforce the standards.

Another concern we hold relating to the public consultation period is the credence extended to pro forma submissions created by animal rights groups. We are aware of campaigns by groups such as Animals Australia that encourage the public to submit feedback to the Cattle Standards and Guidelines Writing Group. While we embrace public input, this campaign is utilising highly emotive and often misleading statements such as “animals can have parts of their bodies cut off without pain relief”, and the simplicity of a pro forma letter to attempt to sway this process unjustly. Accordingly, we ask that you place significantly less consideration on such submissions.

I trust this feedback is of assistance and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely



Ian Feldtmann
President VFF Livestock Group