



ALPA

Submission

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep

To:

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A. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association Ltd (ALPA) submission is in response to the request from Animal Health Australia who is seeking views from a range of people and organisations interested in the welfare of cattle.

The aim of the Draft sheep welfare standards is to ensure the welfare of sheep, and the Associated Consultation RIS demonstrates the need for the standards, and identifies the key costs and benefits for sheep producers, government and the wider community.

The Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association is the National Peak Industry body for livestock and property agents and fully supports any enhancements in Animal Welfare.

ALPA represents more than 1,200 agency businesses across Australia.

Collectively this group plays an important role in Livestock, Wool, Merchandise and Rural Property sales and marketing. ALPA Members handle in excess of 97% of rural agency business Australia Wide.

ALPA is one of the largest national organisations of small rural business men and women, relied on to protect the interests of agents and producers nationally.

ALPA appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission.

B. COMMENTS.

The Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association Ltd (ALPA) has read the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep and we believe these will create improved and nationally consistent rules for sheep care and management for all farming enterprises in Australia.

Most Australian producers have always been aware of their responsibilities for livestock welfare. However, increasing awareness among consumers is placing significant pressure on our livestock industries to improve animal welfare. The development of welfare standards and guidelines underpins access to overseas markets and reinforces Australia's international leadership in livestock welfare. ALPA has no objection in maintaining this position.

We support the welfare standards and guidelines for sheep, so long as the aim is met to harmonise and streamline livestock welfare legislation in Australia, ensuring that it results in improved welfare outcomes and most importantly it is practical for industry.

We support this in the fact that Government and industry have agreed that national standards and guidelines are needed and are working cooperatively to develop the standards and guidelines under the AAWS.

We support that Animal Health Australia will then submit the recommended Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep to government. If the Australian, state and territory Ministers endorse the proposed document, the standards will be used by states and territories as a basis for relevant animal welfare law.



Andy Madigan

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association Ltd

ALPA membership is a signature of professionalism in the industry