

MEDIA RELEASE

27 November 2017

Poultry welfare standards now open for public consultation

The community and interested parties can now have their say on the draft *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry* and the associated Regulation Impact Statement (RIS), with a 90-day public consultation commencing today.

The draft standards mark a significant step forward in poultry welfare in Australia, moving from the existing voluntary system to national regulation.

Kathleen Plowman, Animal Health Australia (AHA) CEO, said public consultation provides an important opportunity for the community and stakeholders to comment on the draft welfare standards, and on how the associated RIS identifies the key costs and benefits for poultry producers, governments and the wider community.

“Once finalised, the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry* will provide the basis for new regulation to enhance poultry welfare in all Australian states and territories, so we urge producers and the wider community to provide input on the draft document,” said Ms Plowman.

The development of the draft *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry* began in 2015, project managed by AHA, with governments, peak livestock industry bodies and welfare organisations involved in the process.

“As a result of this scientifically-based collaboration, the draft document provides welfare guidance on 10 different aspects of animal husbandry specific to the poultry industry.

“This public consultation is the next important step in the document’s development, which will help ensure all views on welfare standards are considered and that a robust document is delivered to Australia’s agricultural ministers for their noting or endorsement,” said Ms Plowman.

The public consultation period ends at 5pm on Monday 26 February 2018, after which submissions will be reviewed by an independent consultant and revised welfare standards developed for consideration by the Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Submissions should be emailed to publicconspoultry@animalhealthaustralia.com.au or posted to Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation, PO Box 5116, Braddon ACT 2612.

Further details can be found at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/poultry/poultry-public-consultation/

- ENDS -

Media enquiries: Jackie Poyser, Executive Manager Communications and Training Services, M: 0410 994 410

About Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.