



Media Release



INDUSTRY DRIVING WA SALEYARD ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

In preparation for the move to Muchea, the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority, in close partnership with industry today considered draft Animal Welfare Standards for Western Australian Saleyards.

This will follow on from the Meat Processing Standards that have been developed by Michelle Edge from Animal Health Australia for the meat processing industry. Ms Edge has also been commissioned to develop the Saleyard Standards.

Ms Edge said “A supply chain approach is essential for this approach. The Western Australian Meat Industry Authority and industry should be applauded for being proactive in developing these Standards – which will compliment other Standards that have been developed including Truckcare”.

“Operating procedures and being considered also”, Ms Edge said.

“Once again WA is in the forefront nationally in developing these Standards”, she said.

The Standards will be built upon the following:-

1. Planning and contingencies, for example, Standard Operating Procedures – for all aspects of operation.
2. Maintenance & design of equipment & facilities, for example, no protrusions, flooring & ramps: minimize falling, slipping, injury
3. Staff competency, for example, all personnel to be assessed as competent - in the use of goading implements and dogs
4. Management & humane destruction of weak, ill, injured stock
5. Management of stock to minimize stress & injuries
6. Humane euthanasia

Livestock Logistics WA Midland Supervisor, Mr Terry Birkin said, “Checklists will exist for each Standard, for example, Standard 1: Planning and contingencies, questions would include Do arrangements exists on both sides of the supply chain to provide feedback on animal welfare”

“Targets will also exist for each Standard, for example, Standard 1: Planning and contingencies, targets would include livestock in all pens must have access to water at all times”.

“This proactive approach is essential so that we can demonstrate how the Saleyard industry is effectively and responsibly managing animal welfare”, Mr Birkin said.

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