

# Media Release



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## **INDUSTRY DRIVING WA SALEYARD ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS**

In preparation for the move to Muchea, the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority, in partnership with delegates from the saleyard industry, Government and other industry sectors last week considered draft Animal Welfare Standards for WA saleyards to be developed in a new collaborative project.

This project will follow on from previously developed industry animal welfare standards for the meat processing industry (Australian Meat Industry Council) and the transport industry (Australian Livestock Transport Association). Ms Edge, a consultant to the project said “a whole of chain approach is essential to manage and safeguard animal welfare issues. Animal welfare is everyone’s responsibility, thus the standards for each sector need to reflect the good practices applied, together with the Code of Practice provisions and be linked throughout the production chain”. “The Western Australian Meat Authority should be applauded for commencing this proactive approach – one that can compliment other standards that have been developed, including TruckCare”.

The standards will consist of 3 documents, 1) the standards, containing the key policies and outcomes, 2) the implementation or working manual, a more operational document containing quality assurance type performance indicators and checklists, together with verification tools and 3) background information and rational, where written information on practice and literature will be provided for training purposes.

The standards will cover similar areas to those previously developed for other sectors, including “planning and contingencies”, “facilities and equipment”, “staff competency and training”, “management of livestock” and “humane destruction”. Mr Terry Birkin, Supervisor of Livestock Logistics at WA Midland suggested that “the standard operating procedures and recording arrangements will be flexible to enable each saleyard to build these animal welfare standards into their existing management systems and arrangements, including those that require arrangements with other members of the supply chain ie customers and suppliers”.

“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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