

Media Release



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SALEYARD INDUSTRY WELCOMES WA ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARD

The Western Australian Saleyard Industry today saw the result of many months hard work with the launch of the Animal Welfare Standards for Western Australian Saleyards.

The launch was officiated today by the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Standards launched by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Kim Chance MLC.

Chairman of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority, Mr Kerry McAuliffe said "The idea for the Standards was devised some 12 months ago when we were planning the future operations of the Muchea Livestock Centre with industry".

"We realized that animal welfare needed to be the top priority for any major Saleyard that would best service the meat and livestock industry into the future". Mr McAuliffe said.

President of the WA Livestock Transporters and Country Bulk Carriers Association, Mr Grant Robbins said "This is unique achievement for all parts of the WA saleyard industry to work together so well to come up with a good, effective Standard in such as short period of time".

"Producers, transporters, stock agents, processors, Saleyard operators and Government have all worked together to develop these Standards."

John Edwards, Chairman, Western Australian Livestock Exporters Association said, "Through the development of these Standards, each member of the Saleyard industry is accepting responsibility for animal welfare into the future, and in doing so, mishaps will be minimized".

"If applied properly, these Standards will ensure that the Western Australian Saleyard industry has a real future". Mr Edwards said.

Mike Norton, President of the WA Farmers Federation said "The development of these Standards fills an important gap in the Animal Welfare Standards along the meat and livestock supply chain. To date, Animal Welfare Standards have been development for Land Transport and Meat Processing – these WA Saleyard Standards fill the gap".

"Importantly, they will fit under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and will ensure that, when these Saleyard Standards are finally regulated, these Western Australian Standards will be the basis upon which this animal welfare regulation is built".

For further information, contact:-

Renata Paliskis-Bessell at the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority on 92747533