

# MEDIA RELEASE



MR 05/07

Embargoed until March 13, 2007

## Welfare and land transport issues come to the fore

Key stakeholders in Australia's cattle industry are to come together today to provide input into the development of national animal welfare Standards and Guidelines that aim for a consistent approach to land transport for all livestock species in all states.

The Cattle Council of Australia, Australian Lot Feeders Association, Dairy Australia, RSPCA and other relevant industry groups will consider the cattle-specific issues that are to be incorporated into the first Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock.

"The industry-wide and national approach aims to provide clear requirements for all producers for the transport of all livestock species," says Cattle Council of Australia Animal Health Consultant, John Stewart.

"It also allows for issues relating to cattle to be identified for inclusion into species-specific chapters of the transport Standards.

The Standards reference group met in late February and discussed key areas including responsibility for livestock during transport and sale, planning and contingencies, selection of livestock for sale and unloading livestock.

Industry representatives from across the value chain have been involved, so that the Standards and Guidelines are developed with good animal welfare practice, scientific research and commercial requirements in mind.

The Cattle Council of Australia says that Animal welfare and land transport issues are high on the agenda for the entire livestock industry, so the development of cross-industry approach represents a significant win for all.

When completed, the transport Standards and Guidelines will cover cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, poultry, emus, ostriches, buffalo, goats, alpacas, camels and deer.

A public consultation process will commence in mid 2007.

Ends

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