



MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Councils encourage comment on Sheep and Cattle standards and guidelines

Cattle Council of Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia and WoolProducers Australia want livestock producers and the wider community to have their say on significant welfare issues relating to cattle and/or sheep.

The Peak Councils reiterated that now is the time to make use of the public consultation period on the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle and for Sheep and the associated Regulation Impact Statement prior to the consultation conclusion on 6 May 2013.

The development of the standards and guidelines is a joint government and industry initiative coordinated by Animal Health Australia (AHA). The Peak Councils have been involved in the drafting of the documents.

The Welfare Standards, when adopted, will help create improved and nationally consistent rules for the care and management of livestock across all farming enterprises in Australia.

The Welfare Standards cover the full range of cattle and sheep management practices where welfare is a consideration, including spaying, dehorning, castration, mulesing and tail docking.

It is important to note that the Welfare Standards will become law within the States and Territories. The Guidelines, however, are recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes.

Cattle Council, Sheepmeat Council and WoolProducers encourage participation because the outcomes of the Sheep and Cattle Standards and Guidelines will have a direct impact on the industry.

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