



ANIMAL WELFARE STATEMENT 2020

Cattle producers care for and nurture their animals with compassion.

Australian cattle producers depend for their livelihood on the good health and welfare of their animals, including their working dogs and horses. Producers recognise that ‘animal health’ and ‘animal welfare’ go hand in hand and, because of their regular interaction with their animals, are best equipped to monitor the wellbeing of the animals within their care and to summon veterinary input when needed.

Cattle Council of Australia develops policies and guides expenditure on research, development and adoption to ensure producers have access to the latest animal-welfare information that can be applied practically on farm.

Governments and industry approved the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle* in 2016 to replace previous voluntary welfare codes; the ‘Standards’ component (comprising *Musts*) forms the legislated minimum requirement for livestock handlers to comply with acceptable practice, while the ‘Guidelines’ component (comprising *Shoulds*) offers a higher level of reach for voluntary use by individual producers and in quality assurance schemes and the like.

(Jurisdictional governments also use their respective animal-welfare legislation, such as Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts, to support penalties for serious cases of animal cruelty.)

With this background, Cattle Council of Australia:

1. recognises cattle as being able to feel and perceive the world around them;
2. supports the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle* and the incorporation of the *Standards* component into jurisdictional Regulations;
3. supports and promotes the industry’s *Is it fit to load?* Guide and its periodic revision;
4. recognises the need for punitive action against any individual or organisation knowingly contravening a jurisdiction’s animal-welfare legislation and/or the national *Animal Welfare Standards*;
5. is committed to the pursuit of non-invasive replacements for surgical procedures used on farm as part of responsible management practice and promotes the use of effective pain relief in the interim;
6. encourages greater transparency with the community regarding through-chain animal-welfare practices; and
7. supports all stock handlers being able to demonstrate their competence if and when required to do so.

The above points are consistent with the shared vision and direction for the Australian red meat and livestock industry over the next 10 years (refer [Red Meat 2030](#)).
