

For Immediate Release

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CONSULTATION CLOSES FOR ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

More than 33,000 individual submissions were received for Animal Health Australia's public consultation on the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for cattle and sheep which closed on Monday 5 August.

The purpose of developing the welfare standards is to create improved and nationally consistent rules for the care and management of livestock across all farming enterprises in Australia.

AHA's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mike Bond thanked everyone for their submissions and also highlighted the transparent and inclusive consultation process used during the development of this important set of standards and guidelines.

"It was pleasing to see such a good response from livestock producers, industry representatives and the wider community. It is important to recognise that Australia is a world leader in the development and practice of animal welfare standards, as exemplified in the open public consultation AHA conducted, with the aim of actively seeking input from all interested parties," said Dr Bond.

Now that public consultation has closed, all major issues will be collated in a review document. This will be made available on the Animal Welfare Standards website (see link below) as soon as practicable. It is anticipated that the standards will be submitted to the Primary Industries Ministerial Council for final endorsement in April 2014.

The approved standards will then be referred to each Australian state and territory, for incorporation into the relevant jurisdiction's legislation.

"The development of the draft standards and guidelines has been a joint government and industry initiative coordinated by Animal Health Australia. Governments, peak livestock industry bodies and welfare organisations have been involved in the drafting of the documents," said Dr Bond.

AHA is a not-for-profit member-funded company which works to protect and improve animal health within Australia. It does this through its partnerships with industries and governments, which help keep Australia disease free, builds the sustainability of our livestock industries and promotes the humane use of animals for food, companionship, recreation and sport.

For more information on animal welfare standards visit www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au and to learn more about Animal Health Australia visit www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

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