

Tuesday 2 April 2013

HAVE YOUR SAY ON DRAFT CATTLE AND SHEEP WELFARE STANDARDS

There are about 30 days remaining for cattle and sheep producers to make their submissions to the public consultation on draft standards for cattle and sheep welfare, which is currently being conducted by Animal Health Australia (AHA) on behalf of its industry and government members.

AHA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mike Bond said it is important that all interested individuals and organisations contribute their comments on the draft standards, which will be submitted to the federal and state primary industries ministers' council for their consideration after the public consultation process closes on 6 May 2013.

"There have been some recent inaccurate reports about this process in the media which may have caused some confusion and misunderstanding amongst our members, stakeholders and individual producers," Dr Bond said. "The fact is there are three proposed standards that relate to the acceptable use of dogs for cattle and sheep handling. It's well accepted that farm working dogs are indispensable for cattle and sheep farmers."

"It is important to recognise that Australia is a world leader in the development and practice of animal welfare standards as a result of open and transparent development processes such as this public consultation AHA is conducting to actively seek input from all interested parties.

"The draft standards presented, of which there are more than 50 in total for both cattle and sheep, have been coordinated by AHA at the request of our industry and government members and with their direct input, involving more than two years of discussion and consultation in planning and preparation."

The 60-day public consultation period started on 7 March and remains open until 6 May. Submissions can be made via email, fax or post or by completing a specially designed online survey.

All relevant information to enable people to make comment, including a Regulatory Impact Statement, frequently asked questions and contact details are available at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au. AHA also has a link to the information on its website.

Animal Health Australia 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 about AHA, visit www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au.

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