

MEDIA RELEASE

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Time's running out to have your say on poultry welfare standards

There's just two weeks remaining for the community and interested parties to have their say on the draft *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry (S&Gs)* and the associated Regulation Impact Statement (RIS).

The draft standards mark an important step forward in poultry welfare in Australia, moving from the existing voluntary system to national regulation. The document has been open for public consultation since Monday 27 November 2017 and will close for comment at 5pm Monday 26 February 2018.

Kathleen Plowman, Animal Health Australia (AHA) CEO, encourages all interested parties to submit their views on the draft document and the associated RIS, which identifies the key costs and benefits of the draft standards and provides alternative options.

"I'm pleased to report that since public consultation opened, we've had a fantastic response with a record number of submissions received. These submissions will help aid the development of the next iteration of the S&Gs and ensure that a robust document is delivered to Australia's agricultural ministers for their noting or endorsement," said Ms Plowman.

Once the public consultation period closes, submissions will be reviewed by an independent consultant and revised welfare standards developed for consideration by the Stakeholder Advisory Group. The document will then progress to the Animal Welfare Task Group for finalisation before it goes to Australia's agricultural ministers.

Submissions should be emailed to publicconspoultry@animalhealthaustralia.com.au or posted to Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation, PO Box 5116, Braddon ACT 2612.

Further details can be found at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/poultry/poultry-public-consultation/

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About Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

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