

12 December 2014

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Saleyard Welfare Standards Public Consultation
DEPI Hamilton
Private Bag 105
HAMILTON VIC 3300
Via email: lms.mailbox@depi.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Livestock at Saleyards and Depots

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is the national representative body for Australian pig producers. It is a producer-owned not-for-profit company combining marketing, research and innovation and policy development to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry.

APL welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Livestock at Saleyards and Depots (the 'Saleyard Welfare Standards'). APL is supportive of the nationally consistent application of the Saleyard Welfare Standards.

Nationally consistent implementation

Like the National Farmer's Federation, APL can only agree to the proposed Saleyard Welfare Standards, if, once they are endorsed by AGMIN, they are implemented in all states and territories without change.

The comprehensive Standards and Guidelines process is a vehicle for harmonised change, and APL expects the endorsement of finalised standards and guidelines to constitute a commitment to implement harmonised national standards, as opposed to minimum levels of standards which individual states may then modify.

Saleyards in the Australian pork industry

Saleyards do not play as significant a role in the pork industry as they do in the sheep and cattle industries. APL estimates that between two and three percent of pigs are traded through saleyards in a given year. Nevertheless, saleyards can pose specific risks to the welfare of pigs through stress, heat exposure, interaction with other pigs, and possible transport injuries. Furthermore, saleyards are typically used by smaller producers who may be less equipped to manage welfare issues arising throughout the saleyard process, and are less likely to participate in the pork industry's quality assurance program APIQ[✓]®.

The management of the welfare of pigs at saleyards is therefore important, supporting the need for harmonised Saleyard Welfare Standards.

New standards affecting pigs


APL recognises that the primary changes affecting pig saleyards fall under Section 3 - Saleyard facilities for handling livestock. The major additions to the existing code of practice relate to provision of water spray facilities (Standard 3.3) and a roofed area (Standard 3.2). Elevating these to standards is reasonable and will protect the welfare of pigs at saleyards, particularly on hot days. As identified in the Regulatory Impact Statement, all pig saleyards in Victoria already hold pigs under roofed areas, and the

provision of water spray facilities is achieved easily using existing hoses and nozzles for washing pens.

The other standards relating to pigs do not depart significantly from the existing code of practice or indeed common practice and APL supports them.

If you have questions then please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8803 or by email at deb.kerr@australianpork.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Kerr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Deborah Kerr
General Manager, Policy