

MEDIA STATEMENT



Statement on animal welfare incident reports tabled in Senate.

15/09/2022

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) acknowledges a document provided to the Senate regarding critical animal welfare incident reports, reported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

This document is evidence of the government-industry reporting system working successfully over several years.

The tabled document details how both the Australian Government and processors have worked together to push for the best welfare outcomes for livestock being processed and have made it a priority to farmers and their agents that only animals that are fit to make the journey to an abattoir actually undertake that journey.

The number of incidents raised from between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021 equates to only 0.0058% of the total number of animals processed through export abattoirs during that time. In almost all of these cases, it shows that the industry has systematically identified and reported animals that were not “fit to load” at the commencement of their journey. These animals should never have left the property, or saleyard, of origin, due to the animal welfare risk.

In each of these cases, as captured in the document, it shows the countless hours invested by processors and the Australian Government to investigate and report these issues to the relevant authorities.

Animal welfare is vital to the sustainable operation of meat processing plants in Australia. Australian meat processors are committed to proper, stringent, and accountable animal welfare practices across the whole supply chain.

AMIC and its members have always advocated publicly that those that contravene animal welfare regulations (including federal and state regulations, importing country requirements or private customer requirements) must be punished to the fullest extent of the law. There is no place for poor animal welfare at any point in the red meat and pork supply chain.

The Australian meat processing industry is committed to delivering the best animal welfare outcomes for livestock at processing establishments.

This ongoing commitment is evidenced through:

- Development of, and widespread certification against, the Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification System (AAWCS)
- Strong support for, and contribution to, the development of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at processing establishments
- Ongoing advocacy for adherence to fit to load guidelines and Land Transport Standards across the entire supply chain
- Ongoing collaboration with the RSPCA regarding livestock processing
- Drive for, and support of, the establishment of innovative technologies that seek to improve livestock welfare

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About

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC), is the sole Peak Industry body representing the post-farm gate meat industry, including processors, smallgoods manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors through to independent retail butchers and exporters.

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