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Friday, 16 September 2022

## Animal Welfare Statement

Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) is moving to assure the public, the animal welfare incidents raised through the Senate today are not viewed as acceptable in any way, by the Australian grassfed cattle industry.

Cattle Council President Lloyd Hick said some of the reports depicted animal abuse and were extremely disturbing.

“Any person who abuses an animal has no place in the livestock industry,” Mr Hick said.

“These cases need to be investigated and those responsible must face the full force of the law.

Mr Hick said most cases involved animals sent to abattoirs, when they didn’t meet fit to load guidelines.

“While we will need some time to work through the reports, it is clear that some cattle producers have done the wrong thing,” he said.

“There is no excuse for putting sick or injured cattle on a truck, and those responsible should be held to account.

“This must be put in perspective – the animals in these reports equate to 0.0058% of all animals sent to abattoirs.

“However, we will not defend this outcome. Australia’s strict animal welfare legislation must be upheld. This includes producers complying with the *Is the animal fit to load* guide.

“These welfare reports are now available because the livestock industry made improvements to the animal welfare system.

“There is clearly room for further improvement in some areas of the supply chain and Cattle Council remains committed to that improvement.

“The red meat industry is already looking for new and innovative ways to improve compliance and enforcement.

“This includes the development of smartphone apps for rapid identification and reporting of animal welfare concerns.

“The cattle industry is committed to ensuring that our welfare assurance programs are efficient and effective and meet the expectations of consumers' and the community.”

More information: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/animal-welfare/>

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