



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Dr Chris Back
Chair
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock

Dear Dr Back,

ASEL Review submission - Cattle Council of Australia

Cattle Council welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the upcoming review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL).

Cattle Council recognises the Australian livestock export trade as an economically significant alternative to domestic processing, creating essential market diversity and competition for Australian cattle producers. Cattle Council views the application and review of ASEL as a necessary occurrence to ensure that as a sector, we maintain best practice and continue to evolve to meet community expectations. Importantly, ASEL, throughout the course of the review must remain commercially viable for exporters and therefore producers.

Cattle Council continues to support the investment of producer levies into market access and research, development and adoption priorities to enhance the live export sector. It is Cattle Council's belief that all industry research relevant to the ASEL Standards should be reviewed to ensure that the Export Standard for Australian Livestock (ESAL) are not subjected to conjecture surrounding the determination of the TAC.

Cattle Council looks forward to contributing further throughout the review and we are pleased to attach Stage 1 priorities on behalf of the grass-fed cattle industry.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Andrae', written in a cursive style.

Margo Andrae
Chief Executive Officer



SUBMISSION PRIORITIES

Pregnancy Testing

Currently, pregnancy testing diagnosis in Australia is prescribed in each of the Veterinary Surgeon's Acts of the respective state and territory jurisdictions. As a result, no one national standard can be utilised for the purposes of positively identifying an animal's pregnancy status for live export. Cattle Council alongside Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) and Australia Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC) have commenced work on a comprehensive assessment of commercial pregnancy testing arrangements currently operating in Australia and the resources required for addressing identified gaps. Pending the results of the research, industry will act accordingly and either look to implement a National Standard for Pregnancy Testing or maintain the multiple standards across Australia's state and territory jurisdictions.

Cattle Council therefore requests that the TAC address modules relating to beef cattle pregnancy testing once industry has had an opportunity to review the findings of the comprehensive assessment. Cattle Council commits to provide regular updates to the TAC to ensure communication of any advances over the course of the assessment and/or the development of a National Standard for Pregnancy Testing.

Seasonal Restrictions / Heat Stress

Cattle Council recognises the importance of restrictions surrounding the export of specific breeds of cattle to certain countries during 'extreme' weather conditions. However, as previously stated Cattle Council requests that all relevant industry research is utilised to ensure that the ASEL reflect the most recent scientific evidence.

Cattle Council has continued to contribute grass-fed cattle industry levy dollars to research the implications of heat stress on livestock. Most recently, the Live Export Research and Development Advisory Committee (LERDAC) has commissioned work into 'Hot Stuff 5', which industry believes will provide greater clarity surrounding the necessary prevention tactics for heat stress. This research will be finalised mid 2018.

Cattle Council would like to request that the TAC postpone any determinations surrounding heat stress in ASEL until such a time that the findings of the research are released to ensure that the industry's most recent research is incorporated into ASEL. 'Hot Stuff 5' will provide a greater planning and mitigation of the risk of mortality due to heat stress and the application criteria overseeing the approval of a voyage.

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock.

Cattle Council recognises there would be merit in having harmony between ASEL and the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock*, particularly in areas of relevance, including: dehorning, body condition and curfew (water and feed).