

# Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

## ASWGA Seminar, Yass

27<sup>th</sup> September, 2006

Peter Thornber  
Animal Welfare Unit



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

# Summary of presentation

- **Why develop an Animal Welfare Strategy?**
- **What the Strategy is about**
- **Why the Strategy is important for wool growers**
- **Implementing the Strategy**



# Why Develop an Animal Welfare Strategy?

- **Australians care about animal welfare**
- **Animal welfare, health and production are closely linked**
- **Maintain market access = domestic & international markets**
- **Changing attitudes in Australian society.....**



# Changing community attitudes

- **Loss of connection with farming**
- **Limited understanding of traditional practices**
- **Increased demand for animal welfare friendly products, e.g. free range eggs**
- **Rise in activism.....**



## Rise in Activism.....

- **Outrage at Cormo Express**
- **PETA anti-mulesing campaign**
- **Opposition to live export**
- **Examples.....**



The Cormo Express at anchor in Kuwait.

*Picture: AFP*      *Source: The Age*



# Saleyards must lift their game

## COMMENT on the market

by Jenny Kelly

Phone: (03) 9292-2539

Fax: (03) 9292-2697



THERE was a telling comment made during last week's saleyard conference that sums up

touched on many of the same issues during a talk at last week's saleyard conference at



# PETA out to kill off exports

A radical animal rights group has launched a campaign targeting Australia's livestock exports to the Middle East.

PETA, or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said Australian cattle and sheep were abused while being transported and at Middle East abattoirs and released footage it said was



# New spray set to ease 'cruelty' of mulesing

**NARELLE MORSE looks at a new technique that allows farmers to mules lambs more effectively and less painfully**

IT WAS the very vocal and powerful American lobby group People for the Ethical Treatment of

"In the 18 years during which I was in paediatric surgery I developed extensive skills in the management of pain in children undergoing surgery as well as the treatment of traumatic injuries," Dr Sheil told those gathered at Merryville Merino Stud Field Day last September.

"Then when I married and we ran superfine merinos as well as other livestock and I wit-





*Photo on PETA website*



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

# Impact on rural Australia?

- **Loss of trust**
- **Potential loss of markets**
- **Potential loss of jobs**
- **Industries moving off-shore**



# How can industry get on the front foot??

- Explain what the industry is doing
- Build trust and connections
- Get the good news stories out there
- Be prepared



# What the Strategy is about??

Enhanced national animal welfare

Improvements made in:

- **Legislation, regulations & standards**
- **Education & training**
- **Research & development**
- **International awareness of Australia's approach**
- **Community awareness**



# Six AAWS sectors

- **Livestock/production animals**
- **Animals used for work, sport, recreation or display**
- **Companion animals**
- **Animals in the wild**
- **Aquatic animals**
- **Animals used in research and teaching**



# Is the Strategy relevant to Wool Growers

## YES!!!

- **Wool growers are part of the AAWS Livestock/Production sector**
- **Risk right along supply chain**
- **Growers critical part of the chain**
- **Need to be prepared for welfare campaigns**



# How can Wool Growers prepare?



- Asses activities that are likely to come under scrutiny
- Workable QA program
  - LPA
- Include welfare in future design
- Staff/agents are aware of welfare standards
- Tell everyone....

# Our farmers take lead in animal care

FARMING and industry leaders have released an independent report that confirms Australian live exports lead the world in standards of animal care.

The report was commissioned from a leading agricultural research body, Alliance Resource Economics, by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and LiveCorp.

The report was released in

animal care are among the best in the world," he said.

"We're committed to continuing to work with our trading partners to push for better practices overseas.

"That includes spending valuable resources upgrading abattoirs at overseas ports and guaranteeing better training for stockmen charged with handling animals," Mr Bray said.





# The road ahead.....



# Implementing the strategy .....

- Provide national leadership
- \$6 Million to support implementation
- Working groups
- Identify priorities
- Continued consultation



# Continue Consultation by...

- ✓ **Advisory Committee Meetings**
- ✓ **Working Group Meetings**
- ✓ **Stakeholder Workshop October 2006**
- ✓ **Scientific Conference June 2007**

## Communications activities.....

- **Publications**
- **Presentations**
- **Project funding**



## Other Issues .....

- Land transport
- Model Codes   
Aust Welfare guidelines and standards
- Live exports
- Education and training
- Illegal activist legislation



# Conclusion .....

- Be prepared
- Be proactive
- Get the message out there



# Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

[www.daff.gov.au/aaws](http://www.daff.gov.au/aaws)

Australia's blueprint  
for sustainable  
improvement in  
animal welfare

