



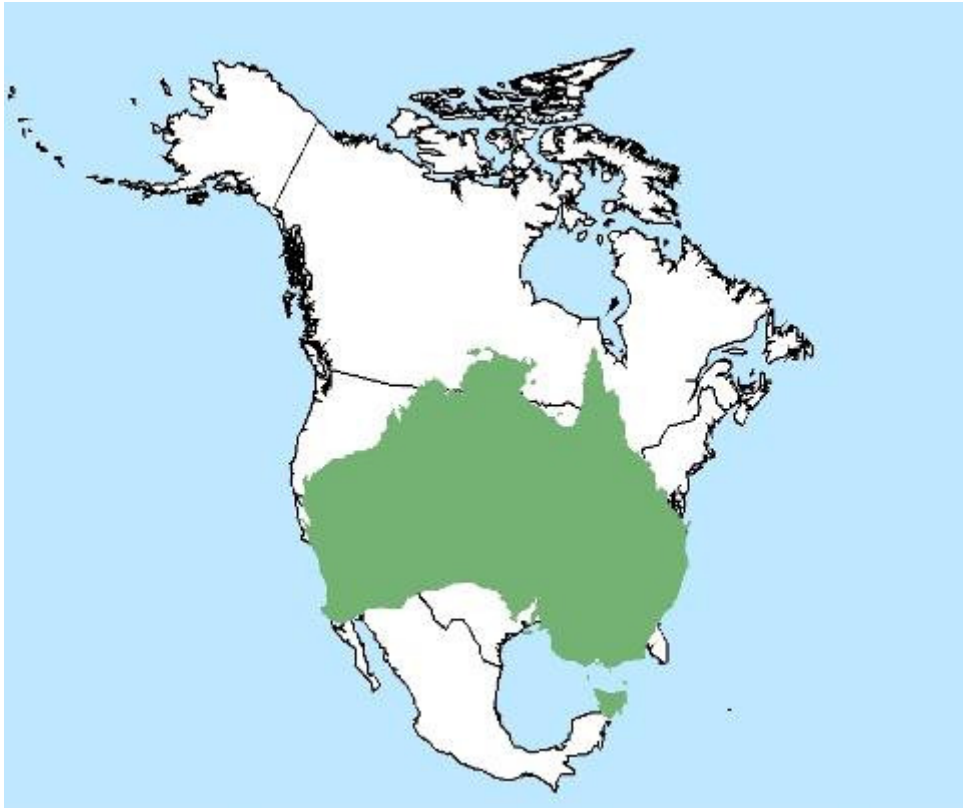
Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

An Australian Perspective on developing standards and assuring compliance

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Strategy and Communications**

First, the geography lesson.....



- **About the same size**
- **Australia has about 21 million people**
- **USA about 304 million people**

Australian Government



- **National Government has constitutional responsibility to provide national leadership under the Council of Australian Governments**

- **Prime Minister + State-Territory Premiers**

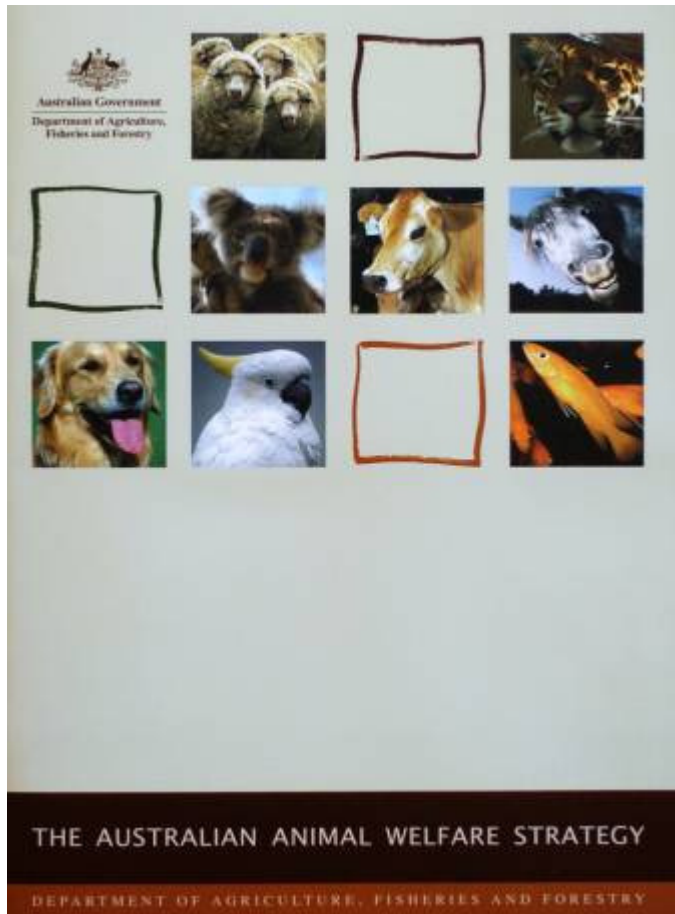
- **Responsible for international matters**

Challenges in the Federation

- **Australia is a Federation of states/territories and animal welfare is delivered under respective jurisdictional laws**
- **Diverse welfare stakeholders, including the community**



National Policy.....



The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) is the national blueprint to improve animal welfare outcomes and Australia's overarching animal welfare policy document

- **good progress since 2005**

Framework for the Strategy's success....

- **Extensive consultation**
- **Partnership between industry, all levels of government and the community**
- **DAFF providing leadership, coordination and funding (+ a lot of in-kind contributions from stakeholders!)**



Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.....

Vision :

“ The welfare of all animals in Australia is promoted and protected by the development and adoption of sound animal welfare standards and practices”



Photo courtesy of Nicky, South East Asia FMD

AAWS Goals

- **Enhanced national approach and commitment to high standards of animal welfare**
- **Sustainable improvements based on science/evidence**
- **Effective communication, education & training to build understanding**



Photo courtesy of Sarah Priest, Magra, Tasmania

What is a standard?

- The minimum **requirements** to deliver acceptable animal welfare
 - Should be science OR evidence-based
 - Meet public expectations
 - Readily understood and accepted by animal handlers
 - Effective tools for 'enforcers'



A required standard.....



- Should define the welfare outcome to be achieved **NOT** prescribe how to!

 - Worded as **MUST**

- Must be clear, essential, verifiable and enforceable!

- Be recognised in legislation and regulations

What is a guideline?

- Recommended guidelines use **SHOULD** not **MUST**
- the **recommended** practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes
 - guidelines complement the standards, but are not regulated





Example of standard v guideline

Drivers **MUST** ensure that the ramp and the vehicle are properly aligned, and that any gap between the ramp and the vehicle is sufficiently narrow to minimise risk of injury during loading and unloading.

Before loading, the driver **SHOULD** inspect the condition of the livestock crate and ensure it is correctly set up and fully operational.

- If inspecting the vehicle at night or where light is insufficient, a portable source of lighting should be available.



Implementing standards...

- **Australia has moved from model codes to new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines**
 - from voluntary codes that could be implemented differently in jurisdictions
 - To *required standards* that will be **consistently regulated** by all states/territories
- **Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock**
 - most comprehensive live export standards in the world (highly regulated)

A new business approach.....

- **Standards are managed under an agreed project business plan, with shared Industry/Govt. funding**
 - **Expert writing group**
 - **Scientific review**
 - **regulation impact analysis**



Consult, endorse, regulate

- **Stakeholder and Public consultation**


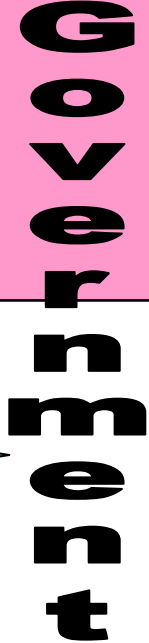


- **Ministerial endorsement - status**

- **implementation timetable**

- **Consistent regulation**

Consultation & decisions.....

Public participation Goal	Inform Provide info	Consult Seek feedback on options	Involve Directly engage & consider concerns	Collaborate Partner with public through decision process	Empower
					

Ref: International Association of Public Participation IAP2

Working within the 'Ethical matrix'...

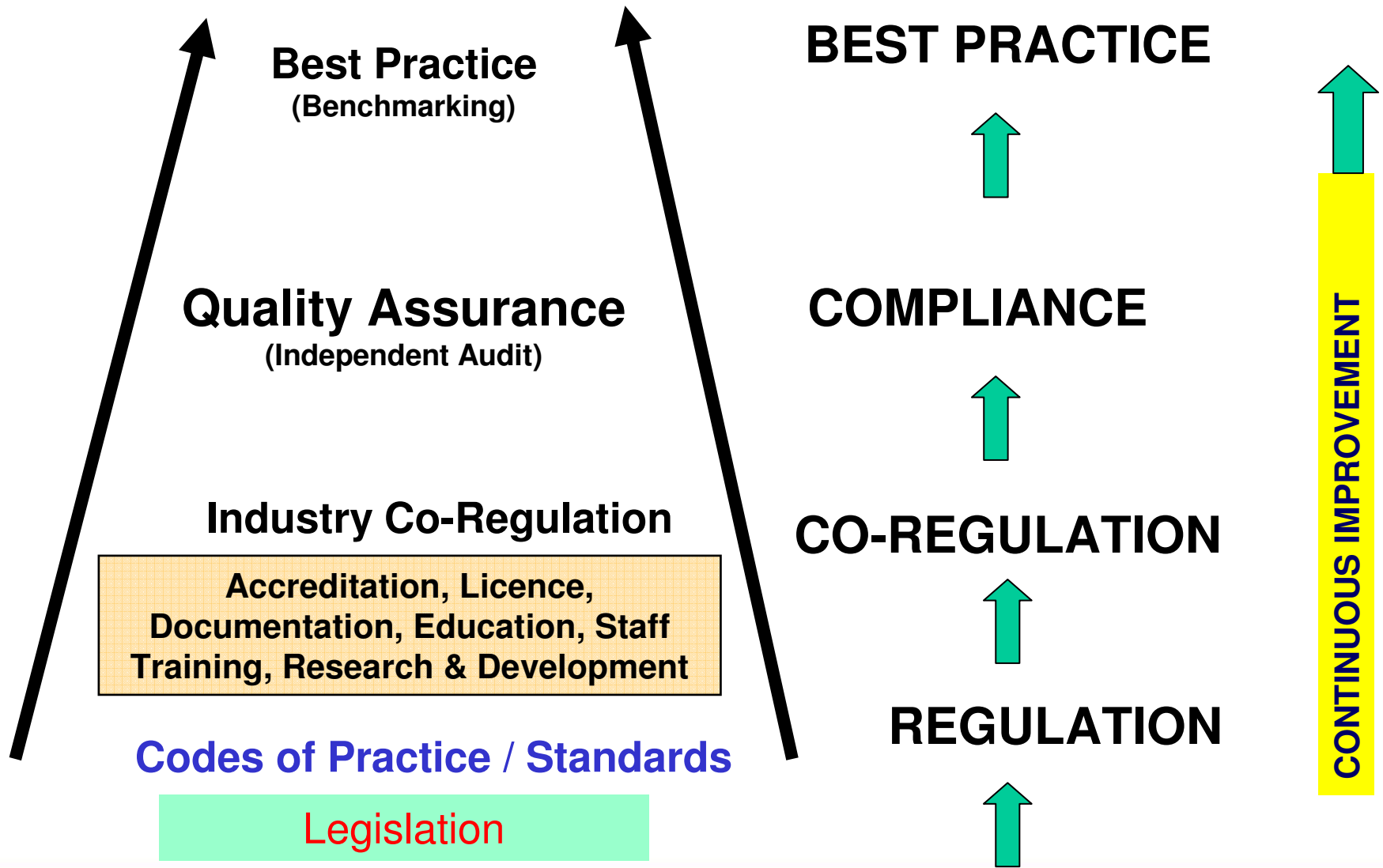
<p>Respect for..</p> <p>↓ →</p>	<p>Health and welfare</p>	<p>Freedom/ choice</p>	<p>Fairness/ justice</p>
<p>Farm animals</p>	<p>Animal health & welfare</p>	<p>Behavioural freedom</p>	<p>Intrinsic value</p>
<p>Producers</p>	<p>Farmer health & welfare</p>	<p>Managerial freedom</p>	<p>Fair treatment in trade and law</p>
<p>Consumers</p>	<p>Availability of safe wholesome food</p>	<p>Choice and labelling</p>	<p>Affordability of food</p>
<p>Living environment</p>	<p>Conservation</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>Sustainability</p>



Enforcing standards.....

- **Implementation is a shared responsibility between governments, livestock producers and transporters**
 - **Need good communication so people understand 'what is required'**
- **States and territories have responsibility under their legislation**
- **Need appropriate inspection points for verification and appropriate penalties for non-compliance**

Regulation/co-regulation in Australia



Best practice

- **TruckCare** is the Livestock Transporter Industry's independently-audited quality assurance (QA) program
 - aimed at raising awareness, implementing a quality management system which can be **audited externally**
 - Developed by welfare scientists and integrated with road transport quality assurance programs



Drivers for change

- **Change can be imposed or people can be part of change and improvement in their sector**
- **The development of standards is also a basis for engagement of animal users and community and can be used for education**
 - **'Yellow card'/'red card' system**




Monitoring progress.....


- **Need to work on evidence of good or adverse outcomes – tracking**
- **Australia has a national livestock identification system (lifetime ID from birth)**
- **Transported animals also accompanied by National Vendor Declaration/ waybill documentation**




Using the OIE transport guidelines..


OIE Standard/guideline	Indicators of acceptable welfare
<p>Article 3 - Vehicles used for transport should be designed, constructed and fitted as appropriate to the species, size, etc...free from sharp protrusions</p>	<p>Animals arrive at destination in good condition with no visible injuries.</p> <p>Post slaughter, no evidence of carcass bruising</p>







Using the OIE transport guidelines.....

OIE Standard/guideline	Indicators of acceptable welfare
<p>Article 5 - animals that are <i>unfit</i> to travel should not be loaded onto a vehicle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sick, injured, weak, disabled, blind in both eyes• Unable to stand on both legs	<p>Animals inspected and unfit animals not loaded. Animals arrive in good condition, can walk off the vehicle unaided, no sign of lameness or injury</p> 

Example - Live exports by Air...

Air Jan - Dec 2007			
275 Voyages			
Species	Loaded	Mortality	Average %
Buffalo	37	0	0.00
Cattle	1,943	0	0.00
Goats	61,487	21	0.03
Sheep	6,853	2	0.03
Alpacas	403	0	0.00
Camels	20	0	0.00
Deer	718	0	0.00
Llamas	5	0	0.00

Training and education – working with governments and commercial companies

- Taken AAWS offshore to Middle East and Asia



Photos courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia/LiveCorp

Training and education



- **LOW STRESS Stock handling**

- **Stockmanship**



Photos courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia/LiveCorp

Improving management



Photos courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia/LiveCorp



Conclusion.....

- **Evidence or outcomes-based standards provide a basis for improvement**
- **'Required standards' - consistently regulated, enforced, monitored**
- **Shared responsibility**
- **Standards provide a basis for training, education**

Thank you!



AAWS 'Dog Dreaming' painting