

Animal welfare - Australia

Animal welfare is a major consideration for the food animal production sector.

Many Government endorsed Codes of Practice are in place. These Codes cover all the animal industries and range from land, sea and air transport, to the management of cattle in feedlots and abattoirs.

The principles contained within these Codes have been incorporated by individual industry sectors into Accreditation Programs - Cattlecare, National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NAFS), Livestock Export Accreditation Program (LEAP), all of which are audited by third parties.

National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW)

Terms of reference

■ Establishment

The National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW) is a non-statutory body established by the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy in 1989.

■ Functions

The functions of NCCAW are:

- to assess and advise the Federal Government on the national implications of welfare issues affecting animals;
- to advise on the effectiveness and appropriateness of national codes of practice, policies, guidelines and legislation to safeguard or further the welfare of animals and protect the national interest;
- to liaise with other relevant bodies such as the Animal Welfare Committee, which meets under the auspices of the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand;
- such other functions as may be required or conferred on the Committee by the Minister.

 [TOP](#)

■ Method of Operation

▶ The Committee

- receives submissions from animal welfare organisations and agencies, industry or individuals concerning animal welfare issues;
- has the power to establish working groups to carry out its functions;
- prepares and furnishes written reports to the Minister for the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on matters that have been subject to inquiry by the Committee; and
- is required to report twice-annually to the Minister on its activities.

► **Membership**

The Committee consists of:

- an independent Chair appointed by the Minister (the current Chair is Professor Ivan Caple);
- 15 members comprising a person nominated by each of the following:
 - Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 - Environment Australia
 - National Health and Medical Research Council
 - National Farmers' Federation
 - Australian Veterinary Association
 - RSPCA Australia
 - Animals Australia
 - a representative from each State/Territory Government (drawn from State Animal Welfare Advisory Councils/Committees where they presently exist); and
- the Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Primary Industries Standing Committee is an ex officio member if he/she does not happen to be one of the above nominees.
- the CEO of Animal Health Australia is an ex officio member

The Committee is serviced by a Secretariat provided by Product Integrity Animal & Plant Health, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

■ **Secretariat Contact Details**

Animal Welfare

Product Integrity Animal & Plant Health
 Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
 GPO Box 858
 CANBERRA ACT 2601 BARTON ACT 2600
 Facsimile: (02) 6273 5237