



MEDIA RELEASE

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ALRTA initiative delivers national training milestone for livestock transport

The Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) has welcomed endorsement of the new national Livestock Transport Driver Skill Set, marking an important step in strengthening industry professionalism, supporting animal welfare and attracting the next generation of drivers.

ALRTA initiated the project with Industry Skills Australia (ISA), bringing industry experience into the development of nationally recognised training. Skills Ministers endorsed the Skill Set on 12 October 2026.

ALRTA President Gerard Johnson said the outcome recognised the specialist capabilities required to transport livestock safely and responsibly.

“Livestock transport demands skilled drivers, capable stock handlers and sound judgement. Our people make decisions every day that affect animal welfare, road safety and the reliability of Australia’s food supply,” Mr Johnson said.

“This is a significant step in the professionalisation of our industry. It gives employers and drivers a clearer training benchmark and helps give the skills of livestock transporters the recognition they deserve.”

The Livestock Transport Driver Skill Set brings together competencies in livestock handling, care during transit, safe heavy vehicle driving behaviours and workplace safety. It includes strengthened coverage of animal welfare and biosecurity obligations.

Mr Johnson said investing in driver capability was also an investment in national food security.

“Australia’s food security depends on being able to move livestock safely and reliably between farms, saleyards, feedlots and processors. Skilled livestock transporters are essential to keeping that system working.

“Resilience means having the people and capability to keep food supply chains moving through disruption and changing conditions. Building our workforce is central to that task.”

Mr Johnson said a clearer training pathway could also help attract and retain drivers.

“We need people to see livestock transport as a skilled career with a future. A recognised pathway can help new entrants understand what the job requires, give employers greater confidence in developing their people and support experienced drivers to have their capabilities recognised.

“For animal welfare, the value lies in practical capability: understanding livestock, recognising risks and making sound decisions throughout the journey.”

Mr Johnson congratulated ISA, the Technical Committee, participating training organisations and industry contributors, and acknowledged the contribution of Anthony Boyle, Athol Carter, Lauren Hamilton, Alina Hawkins and Benno Sutherland.

“ALRTA helped get this initiative underway, but reaching this point has been a collective effort,” he said.

“Our members and industry representatives contributed their time, experience and practical knowledge to help make the training relevant to the work. We thank everyone who helped turn an identified industry need into this important outcome.

“The next priority is making the training accessible and useful for operators, including those in regional and remote Australia. Endorsement is an important milestone; the lasting benefit will come from putting it into practice.”

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