

ONLINE ARTICLE

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Sean Dean, from Pottsville on the state's North Coast, has pleaded guilty to 25 counts of aggravated cruelty upon an animal.

It's alleged the 39 year old hired a 9-tonne Pantech removalist truck in early December to move the ponies from a property in Uralla, in the New England region, to Pottsville, where he intended to train them.

But when he stopped to check the animals about 100-kilometres into the journey, Mr Dean found them dead or dying for lack of ventilation. It's alleged he then dragged the carcasses from the removalist truck, dumping them just off the New England Highway at a Truck Stop near Glen Innes.

While it's come too late for those ponies, there are new animal transport laws set to come in across the country from July 1 that will have widespread implications for all sectors of the livestock industries.

Philip Halton, Executive Director of the Australian Livestock Transporters Association, has told Lisa Herbert the new animal welfare and transport laws won't just apply to the owner and operator of the vehicle.