



MEDIA RELEASE

ALRTA invites comments on Draft "National Guidelines for Ramps and Forcing Yards"

Today the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) has released a draft *Guide for Safe Design of Livestock Loading Ramps and Forcing Yards* for a public consultation period of four weeks.

The purpose of the voluntary guide is to promote safer workplaces for people in contact with livestock loading facilities and to improve animal welfare outcomes.

Legislation requires that workplace safety risks be controlled as far as is reasonably practicable. Australian Animal Welfare Standards require livestock handling facilities be constructed, maintained and operated in a way that minimises risks to the welfare of livestock.

'The guide is a tool to assist in the assessment of existing facilities and aid in the design of proposed new facilities. It summarises the potential hazards of livestock loading ramps and forcing yards and practical examples of ways to control associated risks for different types of facilities', said ALRTA National President, Grant Robins.

'General principles are identified as well as a series of model ramp designs, ranging from low-cost basic designs for farms to more advanced commercial designs, that adhere to the guidelines', he said.

President of the Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of Victoria, John Beer, has been a driving force behind the development of the guide.

'Loading ramps are the most dangerous area of livestock holding facilities. The level of unnecessary risk associated with crushing, lacerations and slips, trips and falls at some facilities is no longer acceptable', said Mr Beer.

'We have produced this guide in close consultation with key stakeholders in the livestock supply chain including producers, transporters, feedlots, saleyards, exporters, equipment manufacturers, welfare groups and safety authorities', he said.

'Improving safety around livestock facilities is a shared responsibility and judging by the level of interest in this guide from across the supply chain I know it will make a big difference', he said.

The ALRTA now invites all stakeholders to consider and comment on the draft guide. The ALRTA is aiming to launch a final version of the guide at our joint National and State Conference to be held at the Light House Beach Resort, Bunbury WA, 3-4 July 2015.

Key Information:

- Copies of the guide can be obtained from: www.alrta.org.au
- The public consultation period closes on 3 June 2015.
- Comments can be sent to: office@alrta.org.au

Media contact: Mathew Munro, ALRTA Executive Director, 0421 082 489.