

INDUSTRY STATEMENT: 6 June 2011



AMIC: The Australian processing industry's animal welfare credentials

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) has moved to reassure the Australian public that the Australian meat processing industry is committed to the highest level of animal welfare and humane treatment of livestock.

Meat processing in Australia has for many years been conducted in accordance with national animal welfare legislation underpinned by the government's Model Codes of Practice.

Australian processors demonstrate compliance with this legislation by operating to AMIC's 'Industry Animal Welfare Standards for Livestock Processing Establishments'. The AMIC Standards integrate our legal and commercial animal welfare requirements which our customers, and the Australian public, expect of us.

Australia's animal welfare legislation and AMIC's Standard are verified by Commonwealth and State inspectors and commercial auditors on behalf of our customers.

AMIC's Animal Welfare Standards were developed by a national committee, comprising representatives from Government, science, animal welfare organisations, as well as technical experts and industry representatives.

The AMIC Standards were launched by Dr Hugh Wirth, whilst President of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). Committed to continual improvement the Standards were updated as recently as 2010 with scientific support provided by the Animal Welfare Science Centre at the University of Melbourne.

In 2010 the AMIC Standards were endorsed by Dr Temple Grandin, an international Animal Welfare expert, who has "*commended the Australian processing industry for adopting the Standards*".

Australian meat processor personnel responsible for livestock handling and processing are required to be trained and competent. In the last three years over 300 personnel have completed 'Animal Welfare Officer' training. Each year around 150 new livestock handlers undertake specific 'Livestock Handling' training.

AMIC is concerned that people in the Australian community may perceive the recent images shown on ABC 4 Corners television program regarding Indonesia to be representative of Australian animal welfare practices.

There is nothing further from the truth and AMIC reassures the community that the Australian processing industry operates to the highest animal welfare standards.

The humane treatment of animals is the unconditional expectation of our customers and the Australian public. The Australian processing industry affirms our ongoing commitment to operating in accordance with community expectations by continuing to comply with Australia's Animal Welfare standards and government legislation.

Contact: Christian Mulders - (02) 9086 2244

Spokesperson: Terry Nolan, AMIC Chairman - 0428 714 888

2nd Floor
460 Pacific Highway
St Leonards NSW
Australia 2065
PO Box 1208
Crows Nest NSW 1585
T 02 9086 2241
F 02 9086 2201
ABN 65 990 653 488