

Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange Animal Welfare Policy

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AUTHORITY	Manager Livestock
CONTACT OFFICER	General Manager

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Council is the owner of the Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange (CWLE) and has a responsibility as the provider of this facility to ensure high standards of animal welfare are implemented and upheld for all livestock management and handling that occurs on site.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Policy is to outline best practice standards and provide a clear understanding of the responsibilities which must be upheld by all parties at the Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange for the management and handling of livestock.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 This Policy applies to all stakeholders of the Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange. An overview of the relevant stakeholders is as follows:
- i. Forbes Shire Council (Council);
 - ii. Forbes Associated Agents (FAA);
 - iii. Peak Body Representatives (Inc. NSW Local Land Services, Meat and Livestock Australia, etc.);
 - iv. Stock and Station Agents (Agents);
 - v. Transport Operators;
 - vi. Vendors (including livestock sellers, buyers and primary producers);
 - vii. Site Visitors.

3 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Act	<i>Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)</i>

4 POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 Council commits itself to ensuring that all livestock management and handling activities that occur at the Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange by any stakeholder is done so in accordance with animal welfare standards.
- 4.2 To ensure animal welfare standards are upheld the following statements apply:
- i. Council has no tolerance for cruelty toward animals and any instances of animal cruelty will be reported to the appropriate agency without delay.
 - ii. Council recognises that good animal welfare starts with good stockmanship and that all stakeholders of the Central West Livestock Exchange require the appropriate skills, knowledge, attitude and behaviour necessary to handle livestock in a manner that does not compromise their welfare.

- iii. All stakeholders in charge of the care and management of animals at the CWLE must be aware of their responsibilities under the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at Saleyards and Depots and industry best practice. They must undertake adequate planning and management to minimise stress or harm of all animals received, and practice considerate handling, movement, feeding and watering to ensure the welfare of all animals under their control.
- iv. Council will cooperate with, and seek to maintain a good working relationship with the Local Land Services NSW, the RSPCA, and other stakeholders involved in maintaining high standards of animal welfare.
- v. Sick or injured animals must be identified, assessed, and managed so as to minimise suffering or distress as soon as practicable.
- vi. Any animal suffering from disease, injury or debilitation which cannot be reasonably treated such that the animal is suffering or in discomfort, must be humanely and competently euthanised on site without delay by approved employees.
- vii. Appropriate facilities and equipment will be provided and adequately maintained to allow the receipt, processing, sale and dispatch of animals through the Forbes CWLE without causing undue injury, distress or suffering.
- viii. Management has the absolute discretion to manage or humanely destroy any animal it reasonably believes to be injured, suffering or in distress.
- ix. Livestock received at the Forbes CWLE must be accompanied by a completed current National Vendor Declaration (NVD).
- x. Transporters and other Forbes CWLE users loading livestock for transport from the Forbes CWLE must comply with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock.
- xi. All incidents of which affect the welfare of animals using the Forbes CWLE shall be recorded and where appropriate investigated and a report prepared.

5 VARIATION

- 5.1 Council reserves the right to vary the terms and conditions of this Policy subject to a report Council.

Revision History

Version	Adoption Date	Authorised by	Approved by	Revision Date
V1	12 July 2019	General Manager	General Manager	12 July 2020
V2	15 August 2019	Manex	Council	15 August 2020

Change History

Version	Change Details
V1	Initial Policy
V2	Initial Policy adoption into strategic and operational control via resolution of Council (280/2019)

Related Documents

Title

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at Salesyards and Depots

Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange – Animal Welfare Standard Operating Standard