

Animal Welfare Policy Statement

Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) works to ensure producers achieve the high animal welfare standards customers demand by developing science-based animal health and welfare policies and programs.

As the national body representing Australian sheep producers, SPA believes good animal welfare and husbandry practices are integral to the productivity, profitability and sustainability of our industry. We take our responsibilities for animal welfare seriously and are committed to continuous improvement of our animal husbandry practices.

Animals can be considered to be in a good state of welfare if, as indicated by unbiased scientific evidence, they are maintained in an environment where they are comfortable, protected from injury, pain and predation, fed optimally and able to express important social and other behaviours appropriate to their age.

Good animal welfare is supported by knowledge and skilled management through the prevention of disease and injury, veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, nutrition, and recognised Australian industry best practice with regard to handling, transport, slaughter and euthanasia.

SPA oversees the investment of industry levies in animal welfare research and extension programs with the aim of improving animal management, nutrition, health and welfare outcomes that are practical and effective for producers. These activities work to provide tools and knowledge to producers to help them improve the wellbeing of the animals within our care, build community support for the sheep industry and increase productivity outcomes.

SPA played an active role in the development of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep as well as the Land Transport Standards and Guidelines. These welfare standards and guidelines aim to harmonise and streamline welfare legislation in Australia. Under the Livestock Production Assurance program, on-farm systems must now be implemented to ensure the management of sheep through the value chain is consistent with these requirements.