



25 March 2020

FEEDLOT INDUSTRY COVID-19 COMMUNIQUE – BORDER CONTROL

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), as the voice representing the cattle feedlot industry, is working with Industry and relevant Federal and State Authorities to help manage Coronavirus (COVID-19). Previous Feedlot Industry communiques can be viewed [HERE](#).

COVID-19 is a human respiratory illness. Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia. There is evidence that it spreads from person to person. Like a flu, good hygiene can prevent infection. Importantly, current government advice indicates there is no evidence that livestock or companion animals/pets such as dogs, cats can be infected with the virus.

Please follow all directions from relevant Authorities regarding human health on this matter.

Feedlots - Essential Services

Federal and State governments have determined that the food supply chain and freight services are essential services and therefore permitted to continue to operate.

This includes feedlot operations and the provision of goods and services that are used to produce grain fed beef and run feedlot operations. Freight and movements across borders for these business activities are permitted to continue; keeping in mind human hygiene and social distancing requirements must be in place.

Border Control

Border control measures are being implemented in some Australian States and Territories in response to COVID-19. Some States and Territories have or are in the process of implementing border check points where travellers may be asked to demonstrate their reason for travel.

A summary of these controls, as at 25 March 2020, is provided [HERE](#). Please note that these may change and it is important to check State requirements.

Documentation

It will be important that feedlot staff and ancillary businesses that provide services and/or goods to feedlots can provide information that they are part of the food chain if requested at a border checkpoint. This may prevent any delays or diversions when visiting your feedlot.

Consequently, Feedlots are advised to consider:

- Providing their employees with a letter of employment record that can be used to demonstrate they are essential travellers for business purposes and part of the food production supply chain.
- Discussing with feedlot suppliers and service providers to ensure they are aware of this requirement and can produce information to meet this requirement if asked.

Continue to follow Human Hygiene and Social Distancing Practices. Have procedures in place to ensure staff and visitors limit human contact as per previous guidance [HERE](#).

Traffic congestion at Border Control

It is expected that traffic congestion will occur around border control checking points and may result in transport delays. Consider this in terms of livestock transport and plan for it.

What is ALFA doing?

- ALFA will advise ALFA members and the broader Feedlot Industry as relevant and new information comes to hand from the Authorities.
- ALFA will continue to engage with the relevant State Government Departments on this issue including liaising with relevant Agriculture and Biosecurity agencies.
- ALFA will continue to work with the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) to respond to this issue with a supply chain focus.
- The safety and welfare of our people is our top priority. ALFA has postponed a number of face-to-face events scheduled over the next 6-week period. These Events will be rescheduled for a later date. Communication has been sent directly to delegates who have registered for these events.

The above guidance is provided as a precautionary measure in good faith to assist business continuity.

There is currently no evidence that border control measures are/will impact feedlot operations. However, if feedlots experience any difficulties with regard to border control measures, please contact ALFA on (02) 9290 3700.

RESOURCES?

RMAC Resource Summary

RMAC has prepared a comprehensive resource summary for red meat and livestock businesses. Please refer to the [RMAC resource summary](#) for important links and resources.

NOTE: *The material has been compiled from external resources such as State and Federal government sources. It does not constitute legal advice or recommendations and should not be relied upon as such. It is provided in good faith to assist ALFA members and recipients. Appropriate legal advice should be sought that reflects your individual circumstances.*