

The future of meat processing - a perspective from the RSPCA

Rich Mussell – CEO, RSPCA Australia

Who is the RSPCA?

RSPCA Australia purpose

To make animals' lives better

RSPCA Australia values

Compassion: We believe a kind approach benefits all

Courage: We do what is right for animals over what is easy to do

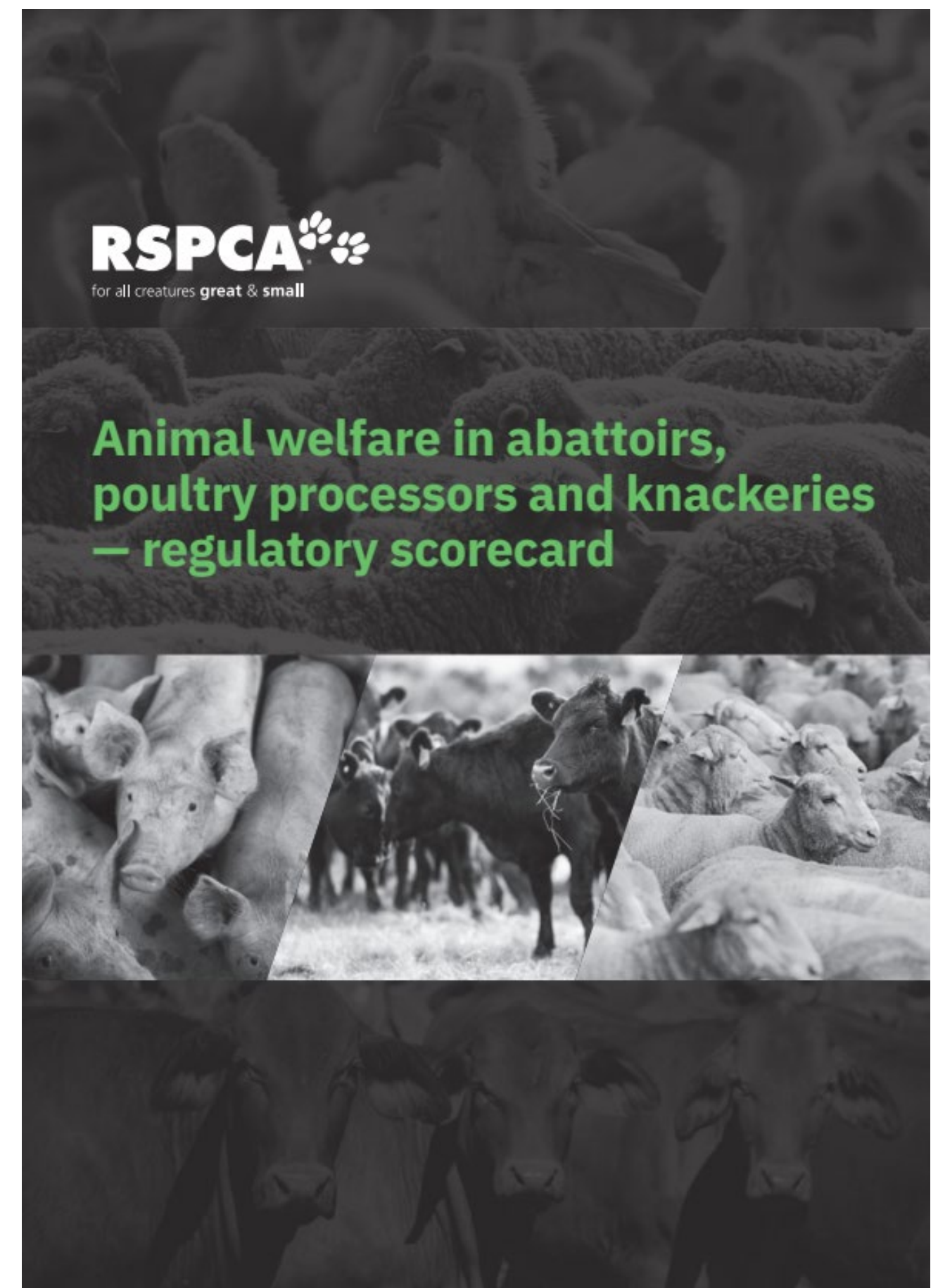
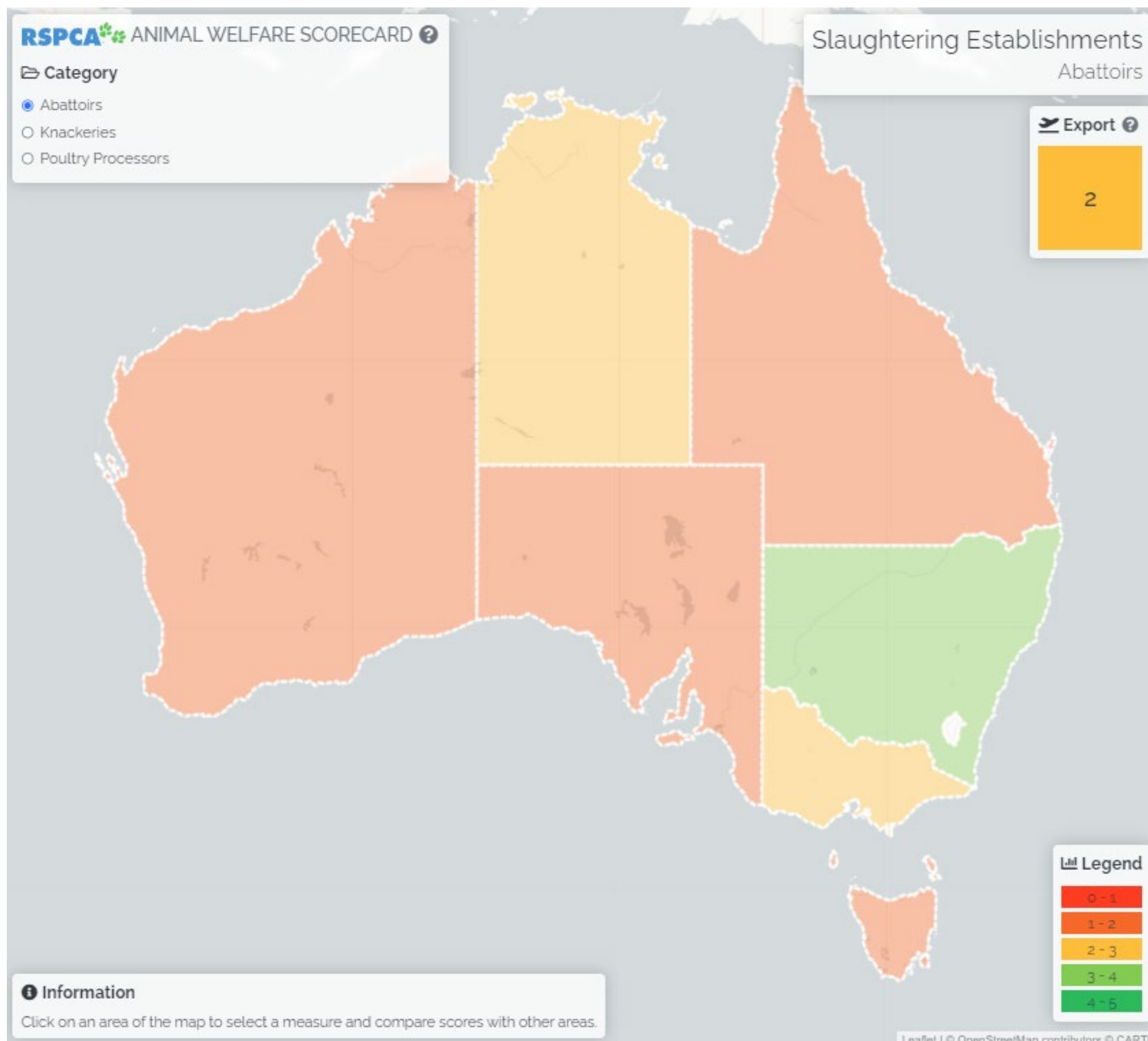
Integrity: We earn the trust upon which our work depends

Knowledge: We make informed decisions

Tenacity: We never give up

How we work to improve farm animal welfare

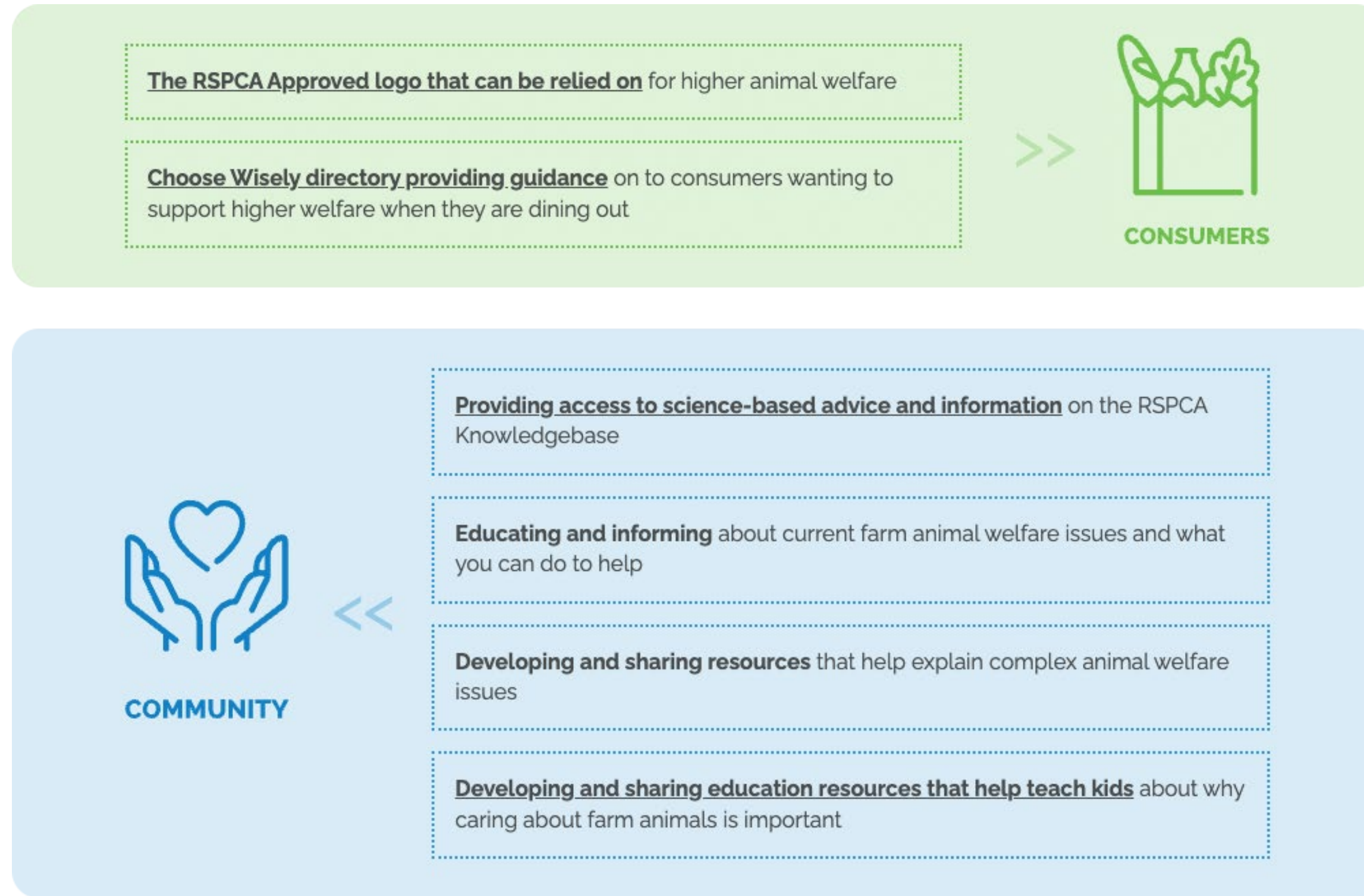




How we work to improve farm animal welfare



How we work to improve farm animal welfare



What can we help you find?

🔍 Search the knowledgebase...

Welcome to the RSPCA Knowledgebase

Australia's most trusted source of animal welfare science, advice and information.

Recent Articles

Where can I get my backyard chickens?

Where can I keep my chickens?

What do I need to know about drug withholding periods for my chickens?

kb.rspca.org.au

Our policies

B1.1 RSPCA advocates for the humane treatment of all farm animals. RSPCA believes it is important to work with the farming community and other stakeholders to affect positive change and improve animal welfare throughout the lives of the animals, whether they be farmed in land-based or aquaculture systems.

G1.2 RSPCA defines humane killing as when an animal is either killed instantly or rendered insensible until death ensues, without pain, suffering or distress.

G1.3

Humane killing must employ methods that:

- ensure that any handling, transport and/or restraint of the animal is carried out in a manner that avoids pain, suffering or distress, including to other animals
- are reliable
- use equipment that is in good working order
- are carried out by a competent operator
- ensure death is confirmed.

Does the RSPCA promote veganism or vegetarianism?

No, but we respect those who make that choice

“... the RSPCA has a key role in improving how farm animals are treated from birth through to slaughter. This means constantly pushing for improved standards along the supply chain and urging that animals be kept in environments that meet their physical and behavioural needs, and are handled, transported, and killed or slaughtered humanely”

The public are concerned about animal welfare

Futureeye report – February 2019

- 95% view farm animal welfare to be a concern and 91% want at least some reform to address this
- 94% believed cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were sentient or somewhat sentient
- Expect growing numbers of exposés and media scandals implicating farm animal welfare issues

MLA Consumer sentiment – July 2023

- 61% of people want assurance that cattle and sheep are being humanely slaughtered but also don't want to know the details, or feel guilty (55%)
- 34-45% of people are unsure of whether cattle and sheep are being farmed humanely and ethically

What do we see as the priority animal welfare issues at slaughter?

Pre-slaughter handling

- Lack of recording and reporting of animals unfit for transport
- Transport and slaughter of heavily pregnant animals
- Electrical prod use and poor handling methods
- Lack of transparency and accountability where CCTV video monitoring is not in place
- Discrepancies between many domestic and export abattoirs

Stunning & slaughter

- Continued use of aversive and/or unreliable stunning methods such as carbon dioxide for pigs
- Lack of transparency and accountability where CCTV video monitoring is not in place

What are the solutions?

- CCTV in all areas of live animal handling
- Prohibited electric prod use
- Improved training and competency of abattoir staff
- Research into improved stunning and slaughter techniques, particularly for pigs
- Investment in technology and possible role of AI



DEFRA Post Five Year CCTV Implementation Review – June 2023

- Increased identification of animal welfare incidences
- Deterred animal welfare non-compliance incidents
- Reduction in covert filming in abattoirs
- Assisted management in staff training
- Increased public assurance of good animal welfare outcomes at slaughter and trust in industry

Key takeaways...

- **RSPCA work with industry and governments**
- **Lift our game in setting legally enforceable animal welfare standards**
- **Control your narrative**
- **Activism is not going away , it will likely increase**
- **People are the lynchpin to good animal welfare**
- **Capital investment will be crucial**

Thank you

