

European Commission
Brussels
Belgium



12 December 2025

Re: Public Consultation on Animal Welfare modernisation

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the European Commission's consultation on the modernisation of on-farm animal welfare legislation.

As the peak industry body representing Australia's post-farmgate meat sector, AMIC's membership includes processors, smallgoods manufacturers, boning rooms, cold stores, wholesalers, distributors, exporters and independent retail butchers. AMIC is committed to a science-based regulatory framework that supports responsible livestock production, biosecurity, food safety, market access and long-term trade sustainability.

Supporting science-based and internationally coherent regulation AMIC recognises the

Commission's efforts to strengthen the EU animal welfare

framework. High welfare standards are essential for the care of animals and for maintaining confidence across supply chains and markets. AMIC encourages the Commission to ensure that reforms are grounded in robust scientific knowledge and evidence-based assessment, drawing on internationally recognised sources such as guidance from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Regulation built on sound scientific principles enhances credibility, supports effective welfare outcomes and provides stability for trading partners.

Encouraging proportionate, practical and outcome-focused measures AMIC supports

approaches that focus on measurable welfare outcomes. Outcome-

based frameworks provide flexibility for producers to meet welfare objectives through systems suited to their operational, environmental and climatic conditions.

Proportionate and practical measures promote continuous improvement, innovation and efficient compliance, supporting resilient livestock sectors both within and outside the EU.

Ensuring coherence with scientific evidence and avoiding unintended trade disruption

Alignment with established scientific knowledge helps ensure that new requirements are effective, workable and credible. Measures that move away from scientific principles or

introduce unique system-specific requirements may unintentionally create technical barriers to trade. AMIC encourages the Commission to consider the scientific basis, practical feasibility and international implications of proposed measures so that welfare objectives can be achieved without reducing predictability in market access settings.

Systems Recognition and Equivalence AMIC supports the application of equivalence in

the assessment of welfare-related

requirements for imported products, in line with WTO principles that support predictable and non-discriminatory trade. This approach allows recognition of systems and equivalence that demonstrate comparable welfare outcomes while recognising differences in approach and helps maintain stable and transparent market access arrangements.

Working collaboratively for ongoing welfare improvements Australia's livestock sector

continues to invest in welfare assurance, veterinary oversight

and continuous improvement. This includes industry-led initiatives such as the Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification System (AAWCS), which provides independent verification of welfare practices across processing establishments. Recognition of credible national assurance programs that deliver strong welfare outcomes, even where production systems vary, supports a constructive and internationally coherent approach to advancing welfare objectives.

AMIC values the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and looks forward to continued engagement with the European Commission as the reform process advances.

Yours sincerely,

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Australian Meat Industry Council