



Safety of Staff and Users at the Muchea Livestock Centre

The overriding priorities of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority (WAMIA), are the safety and health of the staff and users of the Muchea Livestock Centre (MLC) as well as the safety and welfare of the animals that transit the Centre.

Following a small number of incidents, and potential incidents, involving users at the MLC, WAMIA made the decision to restrict the collection of all cattle (including calves) from sale pens to WAMIA staff. This was discussed with key stakeholders and a range of constructive feedback has been received on the proposal.

On the basis of this feedback WAMIA has refined the changes and developed a staged approach to address the issue of cattle pickups while ensuring a safety working environment for all staff and MLC users.

The key elements of the revised changes are:

From 1 July 2017

- A three month trial will be conducted whereby all animals in the Monday Veal Sale will be collected from sale pens by WAMIA staff and delivered to ramps or nearby pens ready for loading. There will be a nominal charge of \$1 per head for this.
- A mechanical draft will be made available to all MLC users and staff collecting cattle from Live Weight Sales to allow the separation of any marked out or other cattle via mechanical means. The use of mechanical drafting to separate cattle post sale will be mandatory for bulls and voluntary for all other cattle. This service will be free of charge.
- A process for identifying difficult or agitated cattle throughout their time at the MLC will be implemented. The identification will move with the cattle at all times providing anyone handling the cattle the opportunity to take extra precautions.
- WAMIA will continue to offer a voluntary cattle pickup service to all users of the MLC.



From 1 October 2017

- The results of the three month trial of pickups from the Veal Sale will be reviewed with a view to moving towards the pickup by WAMIA staff of all cattle other than those being collected by individual or company with an appropriate Safety Management Plan (SMP) lodged with WAMIA. Most of the livestock transport companies who service the MLC already have SMPs in place and would be unaffected.
- WAMIA will continue to work with Livestock Transporters to ensure that Safety Management Plans adequately protect their staff and other users of the MLC and that the intent of the SMPs is being realised.

From 1 January 2018

- A detailed review of the safety of staff and users moving cattle through the MLC, including a review of the measures outlined above, will be completed with to ensuring a safety working environment for all who work at and visit the MLC.
- Any further changes will be communicated at that point.

For further information please contact either David Lock, Chairman of WAMIA on 0409 108 953 or Andrew Williams, Chief Executive of WAMIA on 0475 943 981.