F2 Transportation of drought-affected livestock
(reviewed 24/12/2012)

1  ‘Downers’

1.1  ‘Downers’ are sheep or cattle, which are too weak to stand and walk. They should be promptly and humanely destroyed on site.

1.2  Sheep and cattle that are unable to rise and walk without assistance or are staggering, should not be transported alive to rendering, knackery, slaughtering or burial facilities.

1.3  It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that such animals are destroyed humanely and the carcasses disposed of in an appropriate manner.

2  Drought-affected livestock

2.1  The following provisions apply to drought-affected livestock that are still able to walk but are in very poor condition and where, for various reasons, supplementary feeding is not available.

2.2  Owners should make arrangements to send drought-affected stock directly to knackeries or abattoirs, rather than via saleyards. Wherever possible these animals should be sent to the nearest available abattoir or knackery.

2.3  Loading and unloading of drought-affected livestock must be undertaken with extra care and must, at the very minimum, comply with the provisions of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock as incorporated into the applicable state or territory law.

2.4  In-transit inspections should be carried out by the driver at intervals of at least every two hours when drought-affected livestock are being transported.

2.5  Drought-affected livestock must be protected against exposure to extremes of temperature and weather; road vehicles operating in areas with cold, wet weather must have the front of the stock crate enclosed.

2.6  These guidelines should be implemented in conjunction with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock (or the state/territory equivalent).