

## 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).