

Improving AAWCS understanding and international benchmarking

Project code
2024-1031

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Project description

This project aimed to support red meat processors in understanding and complying with evolving animal welfare regulations. With the transition from Model Codes of Practice to new national and state-level welfare standards, there was a clear need for industry-specific guidance. The project focused on reviewing proposed legislative changes, delivering training, and identifying future opportunities for technology and regulatory alignment.

Project content

The project was delivered in six milestones and involved close engagement with industry stakeholders. Activities included reviewing and revising a section of the national animal welfare draft standard, delivering a workshop to Tasmanian processors, comparing the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) Industry Standard with international benchmarks, and exploring how artificial intelligence could support compliance. All outputs were developed in consultation with the Australian Meat Processor Corporation (AMPC) and other industry representatives.

Project outcomes

Key outcomes included:

- A revised section of the draft national standard, submitted for government review
- A tailored workshop delivered to 22 Tasmanian processors, with accessible training materials
- A structured comparison of the AMIC Industry Animal Welfare Standard (3rd Ed.) with three major international standards
- A scoping review of artificial intelligence applications for monitoring and verifying compliance

Tangible outputs include workshop slides, handouts, a comments template, and a comparative standards matrix for use by industry.

Benefit for industry

This project helps processors stay ahead of regulatory changes, meet certification requirements, and build consumer trust. It promotes consistent understanding of animal welfare responsibilities and provides a strong base for ongoing training, regulatory input, and adoption of digital compliance tools.

Useful resources

Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC), 2021. *Industry Animal Welfare Standard – Processing Establishments (3rd Edition)*. Sydney: Australian Meat Industry Council.