



# LIVESTOCK FEED CURFEW BEFORE TRANSPORT

**All livestock should have access to clean water up to the time of transport**

Cattle and sheep should be taken off lush pasture and green feed for 12 and 24 hours respectively before transport. Consider the body condition, health status, age of the animal, transportation time and environmental conditions. An alternative dry feed source, such as cereal or pasture hay, should be provided when livestock are taken off lush pasture and green feed.



Provide clean water up to the time of transport



Take off lush pasture & green feed from 12 hours, and up to 24 hours before travel



Provide alternative dry feed source - pasture or cereal hay



You are responsible for the welfare of your stock

**Maintaining animal welfare standards drives productivity and is your legal obligation**

## FEED CURFEW DURATION FACTORS TO CONSIDER



### Animal factors:

- Breed and age
- Body condition
- Reproductive status



### Environmental factors:

- Season
- Temperature and humidity
- Time of day



### Management factors:

- Transport stocking density
- Handling and mustering method
- Duration of transport

Type of feed	Feed Curfew		Water
	Cattle	Sheep	
Lush pasture	12 hrs	24 hrs	Provide clean water up to time of transport
	provide dry feed source		
Dry feed/pasture	No curfew		

# LIVESTOCK FEED CURFEW BEFORE TRANSPORT

## WHY?

Livestock are withheld from lush pasture and green feed before transport to help manage effluent production and reduce faecal contamination.

## ACCESS TO WATER

All livestock should have access to clean water up to the time of transport. Make sure the total time without water meets the guidelines for the species and age of the individual animals.

## FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Recommended curfew durations before the transport of livestock hinge on 3 factors:

### 1. Animal factors

Before implementing feed curfews, it is important to consider the breed, age, and class of the animal

- Lactating animals should have minimal curfew periods
- Livestock with low body conditions should have a maximum of 4 hours feed curfew and free access to water. Dry feed should be provided until the time of transport.
- Late pregnant animals should have minimal curfew, and a transport time of less than 4 hours to their final destination.

### 2. Environmental factors

It is important to consider the season in which you are transporting animals, including the temperature, humidity and time of day. It is recommended to transport animals at dusk or dawn to avoid the heat of the day during hot weather.

### 3. Management factors

These factors can be influenced by the person in charge of the animals. Consider how the animals are handled and mustered to give them appropriate time to recover, total transport time and transport stocking density.

## LEGISLATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal welfare is a shared responsibility of everyone in the transport chain, including stock owners and managers, transport operators, saleyard personnel, livestock agents and stockpersons.

Everyone must understand their roles and responsibilities under the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 \(POCTA\)](#). When transporting livestock everyone must comply with the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(Land Transport of Livestock\) Standards 2013](#).

[Welfare scoring nutritionally deprived beef cattle, dairy cattle and their crosses, sheep and horses](#) is a valuable resource, referred to under POCTA.

You have a legal responsibility to ensure livestock are prepared appropriately and are fit for transport.

## FEED CURFEW FOR LIVESTOCK IN TOUGH TIMES

- Ensure continual access to water until the time of transport
- Where livestock have access to feed of only low nutrition, a maximum 4-hour feed curfew is recommended
- Livestock with low body condition should receive a maximum 4-hour feed curfew. They should be provided with good quality dry feed until the time of transport to help maintain their energy reserve
- Always assess the animal's body condition and if it is fit to transport
- When in doubt, leave it out!



These recommendations are based on scientific research to optimise animal health and welfare, food safety and meat quality. For more information, please visit [DPI Animal Welfare](#) or the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(Land Transport of Livestock\) Standards 2013](#). For industry information, please visit [www.mla.com.au/transport-hub](http://www.mla.com.au/transport-hub)