

Transport vehicles and facilities for livestock

Whether you are a first-time cattle owner or you have been breeding cattle for a while, it is always so important to ensure the safety of your Australian Lowline cattle when being transported.

You must remember that even though your Lowline cattle might be smaller framed than some other breeds, they are cattle & NOT pets so the vehicle for transportation must be a decent size & height to make the animals secure & free from harm while being transported.

Using small bike trailers or anything without an overhead barrier is not safe.

If you are purchasing a calf, you must remember that calves will grow so a larger vehicle or stock crate will be needed at a later date.

If you don't have a suitable vehicle, stock crates & horse floats can be hired or a livestock carrier should be engaged to transport your stock.

Taking an experienced person with you on your first cattle trip is always a good idea.

The following regulations are taken from the **AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**
LAND TRANSPORT OF LIVESTOCK
Edition One Version 1.1 – 21 September 2012

Objective: Livestock transport vehicles and facilities for holding, loading and unloading are constructed, maintained and operated to minimise risks to livestock welfare.

SA3.1 A person in charge must ensure that the vehicles and livestock handling facilities are constructed, maintained and operated in a way that minimises risk to the welfare of livestock. Vehicles and facilities must:

- i) be appropriate to contain the species; and
- ii) have effective airflow; and
- iii) have flooring that minimises the likelihood of injury or of livestock slipping or falling; and
- iv) be free from internal protrusions and other objects that could cause injury; and
- v) have sufficient vertical clearance for livestock to minimise the risk of injury.



Other things to think about –

Facilities, vehicles, crates and containers should provide a suitable environment to minimise the risk to the welfare of livestock from extremes of temperature, weather and humidity

Vehicle gates and facilities should be sufficiently wide to ensure easy movement of livestock and to minimise injuries.

Unless cattle are halter broken, horse floats may not be a safe way to transport animals.

The livestock crate should be designed to ensure that livestock can rise from lying in a normal manner without contacting overhead deck structures.....not jump out!

Flooring and surfaces should be designed to maximise grip and minimise slipping and falling. Straw flooring is a good option especially travelling long distances and/or with young animals.

Fixed partitions should be available in the livestock crate for use when travelling in hilly or high-traffic areas or when carrying small numbers of livestock, to prevent livestock being thrown around or injured. Partitions should also be used for segregation when required (eg. with young calves).

For livestock that are susceptible to cold (such as young livestock), transport vehicles should have either fully enclosed fronts or the ability for the vehicle front, roof or canopy to be covered to prevent wind chill and cold stress.

