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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Presented and read a first time

Cattle Welfare Transparency and Equal Enforcement Bill 2026

No. , 2026

(Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)

A Bill for an Act to require equal welfare enforcement for commercial cattle enterprises, provide for independent investigation of commercial-livestock complaints, require publication of welfare outcome data, regulate aerial mustering and long-fed finishing of cattle kept by constitutional corporations, protect recordings of welfare significance, and for related purposes

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A Bill for an Act to require equal welfare enforcement for commercial cattle enterprises, provide for independent investigation of commercial-livestock complaints, require publication of welfare outcome data, regulate aerial mustering and long-fed finishing of cattle kept by constitutional corporations, protect recordings of welfare significance, and for related purposes

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act is the Cattle Welfare Transparency and Equal Enforcement Act 2026.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table.

Column 1 Provisions	Column 2 Commencement	Column 3 Date/Details
1. Sections 1 to 7, 11, 12 and 15	The day this Act receives the Royal Assent.	
2. Sections 8 to 10, 13, 14 and 16 to 59 and Schedule 1	The 90th day after this Act receives the Royal Assent.	
3. Section 27 (first Statement)	The day 12 months after item 2 commences.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally enacted. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this Act.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this Act. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in this column may be edited, in any published version of this Act.

3 Objects of this Act

The objects of this Act are the following:

(a) to require equal intensity of welfare assessment for livestock enterprises regardless of size, ownership, location or commercial influence;

(b) to establish an independent Commonwealth pathway for investigating commercial-cattle welfare complaints concerning constitutional corporations and interstate or export trade;

(c) to prevent exclusive diversion of those complaints away from a recognised inspectorate solely because the enterprise is commercial or large;

(d) to require publication of welfare outcome data without which competing production systems cannot be judged;

(e) to set minimum national rules for aerial and mechanical mustering of cattle to which this Act applies;

(f) to regulate long-fed and high-condition finishing of such cattle;

(g) to protect recordings of welfare significance, and persons who lawfully make or receive them;

(h) to make false or unsubstantiated cattle-welfare claims a matter for consumer-protection enforcement; and

(i) to give enforceable architecture to the Cattle Welfare Transparency and Equal Enforcement Policy 2026 (CWE-P 2026/01).

4 Constitutional application

(1) This Act applies to:

(a) a constitutional corporation that keeps, feeds, musters, transports, slaughters or markets cattle;

(b) trade and commerce in cattle or beef among the States, with a Territory, or with other countries;

(c) a representation made in trade or commerce to a person in Australia about the welfare, origin, production method or integrity of cattle or beef;

(d) the grant, refusal, suspension or condition of an export listing, export licence or government certificate relating to cattle or beef;

(e) Commonwealth funding, co-investment or a research grant touching commercial cattle production; and

(f) matters incidental to those heads of power.

(2) This Act also applies to a person who is not a constitutional corporation if the person:

(a) is an officer, employee, contractor or agent of a constitutional corporation in connection with cattle to which this Act applies; or

(b) conducts a muster, finishing program or marketing claim for such a corporation or in such trade or commerce.

5 Binding the Crown

This Act binds the Crown in each of its capacities.

6 Interaction with State and Territory laws

(1) This Act does not limit a more protective State or Territory animal-welfare law.

(2) This Act does not authorise trespass for its own sake, interference with livestock, introduction of a material biosecurity risk, or harassment of a stockperson who is complying with the law.

(3) Where a State maintains a competent independent commercial-livestock inspectorate with concurrent powers, published investigation statistics and no size-based exclusive diversion away from a recognised inspectorate, the Commissioner is not required to duplicate that inspectorate but may still receive complaints and publish outcomes.

Part 2—Interpretation

7 Definitions

In this Act:

ACCC means the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

adverse action has the meaning given by section 25.

beef includes veal and any product derived from the muscle, fat or offal of cattle that is offered for sale as food.

cattle includes a bovine animal of any age, including a calf, and includes cattle marketed as Wagyu, fullblood, F1 or any other class.

civil penalty provision has the same meaning as in the Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014.

Commissioner means the Cattle Welfare Commissioner established by section 11.

constitutional corporation has the same meaning as in section 51(xx) of the Constitution.

enterprise class means a grouping of properties or operators by ownership type, labour-to-stock ratio, principal mustering method and finishing system, as specified by the Secretary for the Outcomes Statement.

export-listed establishment means an establishment listed or registered under the Export Control Act 2020 for the processing or preparation of cattle or beef for export.

long-fed means kept on a concentrate ration for more than 100 consecutive days, or finished to a marble-score program that a reasonable industry participant would regard as a long-fed Wagyu or equivalent program.

Minister means the Minister administering this Act.

person in charge of cattle means a person who owns, keeps, manages or has custody or control of the cattle, including a constitutional corporation and its officers.

recognised inspectorate means a body whose inspectors hold appointment under a State or Territory animal-welfare statute, including an RSPCA inspectorate so appointed.

recording of welfare significance has the meaning given by section 21.

Secretary means the Secretary of the Department administered by the Minister.

Statement means the Cattle Welfare Outcomes Statement required by section 27.

Part 3—Equal-enforcement duty

8 Equal-enforcement duty

(1) A person administering a Commonwealth animal-welfare, export, consumer-protection or co-investment function under this Act or another Act must not apply a lower investigative priority, a longer response time, a narrower inspection scope or a higher proof threshold to an enterprise because of any of the following:

(a) the number of animals kept;

(b) corporate ownership, foreign ownership or the identity of a major shareholder;

(c) the enterprise's contribution to regional employment or export earnings;

(d) the existence of an industry quality-assurance program;

(e) the remoteness of the property, except to the extent remoteness genuinely affects logistics; or

(f) a request from another agency that the matter be left with a department whose functions include promoting livestock production.

(2) The duty in subsection (1) binds the Secretary, the Commissioner, a person exercising a function of the ACCC in respect of a welfare claim, and a person exercising a Commonwealth export-certification function.

(3) This Act contains no threshold below which the duty applies and above which it does not.

9 Industry assurance not a substitute

An industry quality-assurance program is evidence that a documented system exists. It is not a finding that the system is being followed, and it is not a substitute for an investigation or inspection under this Act or a State or Territory animal-welfare law.

10 Reportable breach of duty

(1) A contravention of section 8 by an official is reportable to the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

(2) A contravention of section 8 by an APS employee may be treated as a breach of the Code of Conduct under the Public Service Act 1999.

Part 4—Cattle Welfare Commissioner

11 Establishment

(1) There is to be a Cattle Welfare Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner is a statutory office holder.

(3) The Commissioner has the privileges and immunities of the Crown.

12 Independence

(1) The Commissioner is not subject to direction by the Minister as to the outcome of an individual complaint, investigation or inspection.

(2) Policy settings for this Act remain with the Minister.

(3) The result of a particular complaint does not.

13 Functions

The Commissioner has the following functions:

(a) to receive and assess complaints about the welfare of cattle to which this Act applies;

(b) to investigate those complaints, including by inspection;

(c) to publish statements of findings from which commercially confidential pricing may be withheld;

(d) to refer a brief of evidence to a State or Territory prosecutor or the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions;

(e) to require documents, muster logs, mortality records and weaning records;

(f) to publish the quarterly complaint report required by section 20;

(g) to cooperate with a recognised inspectorate, a State department and the ACCC; and

(h) any other function conferred by this Act or the regulations.

14 Powers

(1) The Commissioner has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of the Commissioner's functions.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Commissioner may:

(a) require a constitutional corporation to produce a record required by Part 7;

(b) enter and inspect, with an inspector appointed under section 50, a place at which such a corporation keeps cattle; and

(c) publish a statement that an investigation is on foot, without identifying a complainant who has asked not to be identified.

15 Appointment

(1) The Commissioner is to be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

(2) The term is 5 years. A person may be reappointed once.

(3) A person is not eligible if, in the previous 3 years, the person has been an officer or paid consultant of a body whose principal business is commercial cattle production, cattle processing or the marketing of beef.

(4) The Commissioner may be removed only for misbehaviour or incapacity, in the same manner as an agency head under the Public Service Act 1999, with the necessary modifications.

Part 5—Complaints

16 Who may complain

A person may make a complaint to the Commissioner, a recognised inspectorate or a State or Territory statutory inspectorate about the welfare of cattle to which this Act applies.

17 Concurrent jurisdiction

(1) A complaint about cattle kept by a constitutional corporation, or cattle moving in interstate or export trade, may be made to any of the bodies mentioned in section 16.

(2) The receiving body must record the complaint and assess it.

(3) Referral for operational assistance is permitted.

18 No exclusive diversion

(1) A recognised inspectorate that receives a complaint mentioned in section 17 must not be required, by funding agreement, memorandum of understanding or administrative instruction, to refer the complaint away from itself solely because the enterprise is commercial, large-scale or remote.

(2) Exclusive diversion of such a complaint to a department whose functions include promoting livestock production is not a competent disposal of the complaint.

(3) Subsection (1) is a civil penalty provision.

Note: The Queensland published split, under which Biosecurity Queensland handles commercial livestock and RSPCA Queensland handles hobby farms and companion animals, is an example of the arrangement this section addresses. The section does not name an officer and does not treat the published split as a secret.

19 Competent investigation

(1) An investigation of a commercial cattle enterprise is not competent if it consists only of:

(a) a telephone call to the operator;

(b) a review of quality-assurance paperwork; or

(c) an announced visit confined to the office and the nearest yard.

(2) A competent investigation includes, as the case requires, inspection of animals in the paddock or pen, inspection of feeding and mustering records, inspection of mortality and weaning records, and the taking of samples or photographs.

(3) The operator's consent to publicity is irrelevant to whether the inspection occurs.

20 Quarterly publication of complaints

(1) The Commissioner must publish, each quarter:

(a) the number of complaints received, investigated, substantiated and referred for prosecution, by agency and by enterprise class; and

(b) the number of constitutional corporations and export-listed establishments inspected without prior announcement.

(2) Unexplained non-investigation of a credible complaint is a matter the Commissioner must record in the quarterly publication.

Part 6—Recordings of welfare significance

21 Meaning of recording of welfare significance

A recording of welfare significance is a photograph, film, audio recording or electronic record that a reasonable person would consider capable of showing:

(a) a suspected offence against a State, Territory or Commonwealth animal-welfare statute;

(b) a suspected contravention of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle as given force by law;

(c) a suspected false welfare or production-method claim made in trade or commerce; or

(d) conditions that a reasonable person would regard as causing unnecessary harm to cattle.

22 Public-interest defence

(1) It is a defence to a prosecution or civil proceeding under a law of the Commonwealth for making, possessing or publishing a recording, if the person proves that:

(a) the recording was a recording of welfare significance;

(b) the person had a reasonable belief that the recording showed a matter mentioned in section 21;

(c) the recording was published no more widely than was reasonably necessary to bring the matter to a competent investigator, a House of the Parliament, or the public; and

(d) the person did not, in making the recording, injure an animal, introduce a biosecurity risk the person knew to be material, or use or threaten violence against a person.

(2) The defence is available to an employee, contractor, transporter, veterinarian, inspector, and a person who receives the recording from such a person.

(3) The defence is not a general licence to trespass.

(4) This section does not limit a defence available under another law.

23 Mandatory relevant considerations

A court considering a Commonwealth trespass, surveillance-device or similar charge arising from a recording of welfare significance must treat the matters in paragraphs 22(1)(a) to (d) as mandatory relevant considerations.

24 Whistleblower protection

(1) An employee, contractor, stockperson, feedlot attendant, pilot, veterinarian or transport driver who:

(a) reports a suspected welfare breach to the Commissioner, a recognised inspectorate or a State or Territory inspectorate; or

(b) makes a recording of welfare significance in the course of lawful presence on a property;

is a protected person.

(2) A person must not take adverse action against a protected person because of the report or the recording.

(3) Subsection (2) is a civil penalty provision.

(4) The Corporations Act 2001 applies, with the necessary modifications, as if the protected person were a whistleblower under that Act in respect of the report or recording.

25 Adverse action

Adverse action includes dismissal, demotion, blacklisting, reduction of contract work, and a threat of a biosecurity, trespass or surveillance-device complaint made in response to a good-faith welfare report or a recording of welfare significance.

26 Operator-controlled imagery

A public-relations film, an industry-assurance audit video, or a scheduled media day does not discharge a duty under Part 7 and is not a substitute for an inspection under Part 5.

Part 7—Outcome data and records

27 Cattle Welfare Outcomes Statement

(1) The Secretary must publish, or require a relevant industry research body to publish, a Cattle Welfare Outcomes Statement for each reporting year.

(2) The first Statement must be published by the day specified in item 3 of the commencement table.

(3) Each later Statement must be published within 4 months after the end of the reporting year.

(4) The Statement must be compiled so that a reasonable reader can compare enterprise classes.

28 Contents of the Statement

(1) The Statement must include, nationally and by State, and where statistically valid by enterprise class:

(a) weaning rate and calf mortality to weaning;

(b) feedlot mortality, lameness, heat-stress incident and emergency-kill rates for long-fed cattle;

(c) the proportion of cattle mustered principally by helicopter or aircraft, by drone, by horse or dog, or by vehicle, in the reporting year;

(d) a comparison of weaning and calf-survival outcomes between herds mustered principally by helicopter and herds mustered principally from the ground, using a method approved by an independent statistical adviser appointed by the Commissioner;

(e) the number of commercial-livestock welfare complaints received, investigated, substantiated and prosecuted, by agency; and

(f) the number of export-listed establishments and constitutional corporations inspected without prior announcement.

(2) The independent statistical adviser must not, in the previous 3 years, have been a paid consultant of a body whose principal business is commercial cattle production.

29 Aggregation and missing data

(1) Where an operator claims that publication of a figure would identify a single property, the figure may be aggregated.

(2) Aggregation is not a ground for omitting a whole class of data required by section 28.

(3) If data required by section 28 does not exist, the Statement must say so, and the Secretary must commission its collection for the next Statement.

(4) Silence, or the absence of data, is not to be reported as satisfactory performance.

30 Muster logs

(1) A constitutional corporation that musters cattle by helicopter, aircraft or drone must keep a muster log for each such muster.

(2) The log must state the date, aircraft or drone type, estimated head, duration, animals observed down or abandoned, and any calf left behind.

(3) The log is an official record. It must be kept for 3 years and produced to the Commissioner or an inspector on request.

(4) A person must not falsify a muster log.

(5) Subsections (1), (3) and (4) are civil penalty provisions.

31 Mortality and weaning records

(1) A constitutional corporation that keeps breeders or long-fed cattle must keep records of deaths, emergency kills, weaning numbers and calf mortality to weaning.

(2) The records must be kept for 3 years and produced to the Commissioner or an inspector on request.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) are civil penalty provisions.

32 Consequence of non-provision

Non-provision of a muster log, mortality record or weaning record required by this Part by a constitutional corporation is a ground for the Secretary to refuse, suspend or impose a condition on:

(a) an export listing or government certificate relating to cattle or beef of that corporation; and

(b) Commonwealth co-investment or a research grant to that corporation.

Part 8—Aerial and mechanical mustering

33 Application of this Part

This Part applies to a muster of cattle kept by a constitutional corporation, or mustered for interstate or export movement, conducted by helicopter, aircraft or drone.

Note: This Part does not prohibit aerial mustering. It treats the method as a welfare-relevant activity.

34 Prohibited mustering conduct

(1) A person conducting a muster to which this Part applies must not:

(a) drive cattle to the point of collapse;

(b) use metal pellets to wound cattle as an aid to mustering; or

(c) conduct a sustained low-level pursuit of a cow-calf pair in a manner likely to separate a dependent calf from the dam and leave the calf behind.

(2) Subsection (1) is a civil penalty provision.

Note: Paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) give force, for cattle to which this Act applies, to Standards S5.3 and S5.2 of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle.

35 Heat, collapse and cow-calf pairs

(1) A person conducting a muster to which this Part applies:

(a) must stop aerial pressure where cattle show signs of heat exhaustion; and

(b) must not commence a strenuous aerial muster once the combination of temperature and humidity on the ground makes heat stress reasonably likely.

(2) Subsection (1) is a civil penalty provision.

36 Incident notice

(1) A person in charge must notify the Commissioner of any incident in which 5 or more cattle are found dead or recumbent in circumstances connected with a muster to which this Part applies.

(2) Notice must be given within 48 hours after the person in charge becomes aware of the incident.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) are civil penalty provisions.

Part 9—Long-fed and high-condition cattle

37 Application of this Part

(1) This Part applies to cattle kept by a constitutional corporation, or finished for interstate or export trade.

(2) This Part does not repeal or limit the Wagyu Cattle Welfare and Meat Integrity Bill 2026 or the High-Marbled Cattle Protection Bill 2026 if either becomes an Act. If there is inconsistency, the provision more protective of the animal prevails.

38 Vitamin A restriction

(1) A person in charge must not restrict vitamin A, beta-carotene or green forage for the purpose of increasing intramuscular fat.

(2) It is irrelevant that the restriction is a traditional finishing method, or that it raises marble score or sale price.

(3) Subsection (1) is a civil penalty provision.

39 Debilitating body condition

(1) A person in charge must not keep cattle on a feeding regime designed to produce a body condition in which the animal cannot walk, rise, lie or thermoregulate without difficulty.

(2) A person in charge must not grain-feed cattle already carrying excessive body condition solely in order to raise marble score if a competent veterinarian would regard the resulting state as causing metabolic disease, chronic lameness, heat intolerance or impaired locomotion.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) are civil penalty provisions.

40 Confinement of long-fed cattle

(1) A person in charge must not confine long-fed cattle so that they cannot walk, turn, lie, rise, or move away from aggression.

(2) Subsection (1) is a civil penalty provision.

41 Declaration of intensive finishing

(1) Grain feeding of cattle that already carry excessive body condition, done in order to buy a higher marble score, is a welfare-relevant practice.

(2) If a person makes a consumer-facing production-method claim about such cattle or the resulting beef, the intensive finishing must be declared in the claim.

(3) The practice is not a trade secret as against an inspector or the Commissioner.

(4) Subsection (2) is a civil penalty provision.

Part 10—Consumer claims

42 Misleading welfare representations

(1) A person, in trade or commerce, must not represent that cattle were raised, mustered, finished or slaughtered to a welfare standard if the person does not have records sufficient to substantiate the representation.

(2) Subsection (1) is a civil penalty provision.

(3) This section is additional to Part 3-1 of the Australian Consumer Law.

43 Representations taken to be misleading

The following representations are taken to be misleading unless substantiated:

(a) high welfare, highest welfare, or an equivalent expression;

(b) naturally raised, pasture finished, or paddock to plate, if a material part of the finishing was an intensive grain program;

(c) family farmed, if the cattle were finished in a corporate feedlot not under the day-to-day control of that family; and

(d) independently audited, if the only audit is an industry program funded by the operator class being audited.

44 Substantiation

(1) The ACCC may require a person who has made a representation mentioned in section 42 or 43 to substantiate it within 21 days.

(2) The ACCC is the primary Commonwealth enforcement agency for this Part. A State fair-trading agency remains competent.

(3) A welfare claim on an export carton is also a matter for the export regulator.

Part 11—Enforcement

45 Civil penalty provisions

The Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014 applies in relation to the civil penalty provisions of this Act.

46 Pecuniary penalties

(1) The pecuniary penalty payable by a body corporate that contravenes a civil penalty provision of this Act must not exceed the greater of:

(a) $10 million;

(b) 3 times the value of the benefit obtained from the contravention, if that benefit can be determined; or

(c) 10 per cent of the body corporate's adjusted turnover during the breach turnover period for the contravention.

(2) The pecuniary penalty payable by an individual must not exceed $500,000.

Note: Penalties are set so that non-compliance is more expensive than compliance for a large corporate operator. A penalty calibrated to a hobby farm is not a penalty for a feedlot of 20,000 head.

47 Individual and officer liability

An officer of a body corporate who is knowingly involved in a serious or repeated contravention of a civil penalty provision of this Act may be subject to a civil penalty and to any other order available under a law of the Commonwealth, including disqualification from managing corporations.

48 Injunctions

The Federal Court of Australia may grant an injunction restraining a contravention of this Act, requiring production of a record required by Part 7, or requiring a person to cease a finishing or mustering practice that is the subject of proceedings under Part 8 or 9.

49 Enforceable undertakings

The Commissioner or the ACCC may accept an enforceable undertaking in connection with a matter in relation to which the Commissioner or the ACCC has a function under this Act. The Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014 applies.

50 Inspectors

(1) The Commissioner may appoint an APS employee, or a person appointed as an inspector under a State or Territory animal-welfare statute, as an inspector for the purposes of this Act.

(2) An inspector has the powers reasonably necessary to investigate a complaint and to inspect records required by Part 7.

51 Inspection of constitutional corporations

(1) An inspector may enter a place at which a constitutional corporation keeps cattle to which this Act applies:

(a) with consent;

(b) under a warrant issued by a magistrate; or

(c) if the place is an export-listed establishment, at any reasonable time for the purpose of determining compliance with this Act.

(2) An inspection may be conducted without prior announcement.

52 Referral of briefs

The Commissioner may refer a brief of evidence to a State or Territory prosecutor or the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, in any matter the Commonwealth controls, must not treat the maker of a recording of welfare significance as the primary offender where the recording is the best available evidence of a welfare offence and section 22 is reasonably open.

Part 12—Accountability

53 Annual report

The Commissioner must give the Minister a report on the operation of this Act after each financial year. The Minister must cause the report to be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days.

54 Enterprise-class comparison

(1) The Secretary must commission, within 18 months after item 2 of the commencement table commences, an independent comparison of welfare outcomes between:

(a) corporate cattle operations that rely principally on aircraft, feedlots, automation and a low labour-to-stock ratio; and

(b) family-operated properties that rely principally on ground mustering and direct observation.

(2) The comparison must use weaning rate, calf survival, feedlot mortality, lameness, heat-stress incidents, emergency kills and complaint-substantiation rates.

(3) The researchers must be free of current paid work for a party with a commercial interest in the result.

(4) The report must be tabled in each House of the Parliament.

(5) The study is not optional and must not be scoped so that the comparison cannot be made.

55 Three-year statutory review

(1) The Minister must cause a review of the operation of this Act to begin within 3 years after item 2 of the commencement table commences.

(2) The reviewer must report on:

(a) whether complaint volumes and substantiation rates have moved;

(b) whether the Statement is usable by a reasonable reader;

(c) whether aerial-mustering incident reports have been filed and acted on; and

(d) whether any enterprise class has been de facto exempt.

(3) The report must be tabled within 6 months after the review commences.

Part 13—General

56 Export listing conditions

The Secretary may impose, as a condition of an export listing or government certificate relating to cattle or beef, a requirement that the applicant comply with Parts 7, 8 and 9.

57 Funding conditions on States

(1) Any new Commonwealth animal-welfare funding agreement with a State or Territory must include a condition that the State or Territory not require a recognised inspectorate to abandon commercial-livestock complaints solely because of enterprise size.

(2) Existing funding is to be reviewed against the same test at the next agreement.

58 Regulations

The Governor-General may make regulations prescribing matters required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act, including the form of a muster log and the specifications of enterprise class for the Statement.

59 Application of Schedule 1

A person performing a function under this Act must have regard to the principles in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1—Equal enforcement and public scrutiny principles

Note: See section 59.

1. A closed gate is not a welfare standard.

2. Size, ownership and commercial influence are not a defence.

3. A legal barrier to seeing how high-value cattle are produced is not a welfare finding.

4. A complaint referred from a charity inspectorate to the same department that promotes the livestock industry is not independent scrutiny.

5. The absence of published weaning and calf-survival data by mustering method is not evidence that aerial mustering and ground mustering produce the same result.

6. Grain feeding cattle already carrying excessive body condition is not made acceptable by the marble score it buys.

7. Whether corporate aerial and feedlot systems and family ground-observation systems produce different welfare outcomes is an empirical question. Automatic dismissal of the question is not an acceptable finding.

8. Operator-controlled imagery is not a substitute for outcome data or independent inspection.

9. Nothing in this Act authorises violence, injury to an animal, or the reckless introduction of biosecurity risk.

10. A more protective State or Territory animal-welfare law is not limited by this Act.

ENDS

Cattle Welfare Transparency and Equal Enforcement Bill 2026