



Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Hon Dr John McVeigh MP

Reference: CTS No. 19691/14

27 AUG 2014

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2237-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 6 August 2014.

I am advised that equine slaughter in Queensland abattoirs is conducted according to the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption (AS4696:2007).

Part 3, Section 7 of AS4696:2007 states the following in regard to slaughter:

- 7.9 Animals are slaughtered in a way that prevents unnecessary injury, pain and suffering to them and causes them the least practicable disturbance.
- 7.10 Before sticking commences, animals are stunned in a way that ensures the animals are unconscious and insensible to pain before sticking occurs and do not regain consciousness or sensibility before dying.
- 7.11 Before stunning commences, animals are restrained in a way that ensures stunning is effective.'

Additionally the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Livestock at Slaughter Establishments (the Code) outlines standards for the slaughtering of livestock. The Code is recognised under Queensland's animal welfare legislation the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

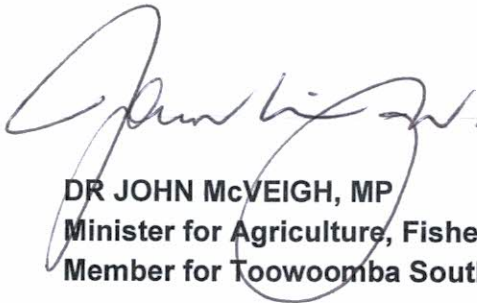
Section 2.6.1.2 provides for the use of knocking boxes for cattle or horses

Section 2.6.1.4 outlines procedures for animals approaching slaughter being prevented from viewing dead animals

Section 2.6.2.5 states that horses should be stunned by penetrating captive-bolt pistol or by shooting (where facilities safely permit) and must be powerful enough to cause unconsciousness in the largest animal. A copy of the Code is available from the CSIRO website at www.publish.csiro.au.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McVeigh', is written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

DR JOHN McVEIGH, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Member for Toowoomba South