



Burnett Livestock & Realty

Biggenden Saleyards Welfare Plan

2011-2015



“This year Queensland was fortunate to put forward Lance Whitaker, Burnett Livestock & Realty as our state finalist for the ALPA Rural Press Mike Nixon Award. Lance has implemented many unique marketing initiatives in his business, which has seen throughput at Biggenden Saleyards increase considerably. In particular the Weaner Sale which saw a record number of cattle pass under the hammer at Biggenden within the past 75 years. Lance commendably represented the State.”

Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association 2009-2010 Annual Report

1. Introduction

The Biggenden Saleyards Welfare Plan is our written commitment to our clients, community and other stakeholders regarding our holistic approach to cattle and human welfare at the Biggenden Cattle Saleyards. We care about welfare at the Biggenden Cattle Saleyards and we want people to know what this means.

The Biggenden Cattle Saleyards are owned, operated and managed by Burnett Livestock & Realty (BLR). BLR also provide exclusive cattle agency services at the Saleyards on sale days. BLR commenced operations at the Biggenden Cattle Saleyards in 2007.

2. Operational Experience

BLR’s management and employees have many years of experience in the cattle industry and the successful operation of saleyards. In 2009, the Director of BLR, Mr Lance Whitaker, was the Queensland finalist for the Australian Livestock & Property Agents Mike Nixon award. Since taking over management of the Biggenden Saleyards the cattle head numbers have doubled.



Mr John Carson of the Stock and Land presents the 2009 ALPA Rural Press Mike Nixon Award Winner Tim Robinson (VIC), Shaun Minge (SA), Todd Clements (NSW) and Lance Whitaker (QLD).

Table 1: Cattle head numbers for Burnett Livestock and Realty

Burnett Livestock & Realty cattle throughput	Biggenden Saleyards Head Numbers	Paddock/Private cattle sales	TOTAL
2007	20,100	2,600	22,700
2008	32,000	4,300	36,300
2009	33,600	4,700	38,300
2010	40,000	4,800	44,800
2011 forecast	42,000	6,000	48,000



Cattle head numbers at the Biggenden Saleyards has doubled since 2007.

The significant growth of the Biggenden Saleyards has meant that Biggenden Saleyards are now in the top ten Queensland Saleyards in terms of head numbers as reported by the MLA in September 2010.

This growth is underpinned by the mission of BLR which is:

Burnett Livestock and Realty Mission Statement

We provide Livestock and Real Estate clients with accurate information and versatile resources. We are approachable and provide a personalised service.



...Biggenden Saleyards are now in the top ten Queensland Saleyards in terms of head numbers as reported by the MLA in September 2010."

The approach of BLR to welfare of animals at the Biggenden Saleyards is to provide excellence and best practice in the;

- future design of the Saleyards;
- operational efficiency of the Saleyards; and
- marketing of cattle at the Saleyards.

3. Codes of Practice and Industry Accreditation

3.1 NLIS, Model Codes & QDPI&F Compliance

BLR is very familiar with industry standards, codes of practice and accreditation policies associated with owning and operating livestock saleyards in Australia. BLR consistently aim to exceed the requirements of any Federal or State welfare legislation.

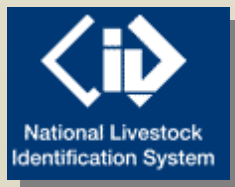
BLR ensures that we comply with all applicable standards and codes of practice with respect to saleyard operators. This includes industry accepted codes such as the;

‘Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Health Committee Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Animals at Saleyards SCRAM Report 31’; and

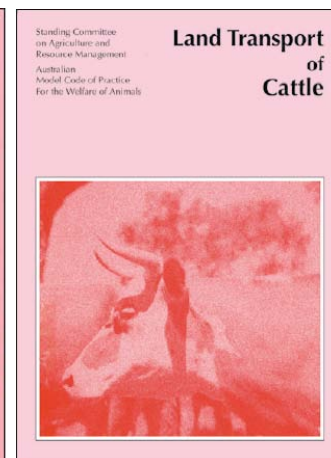
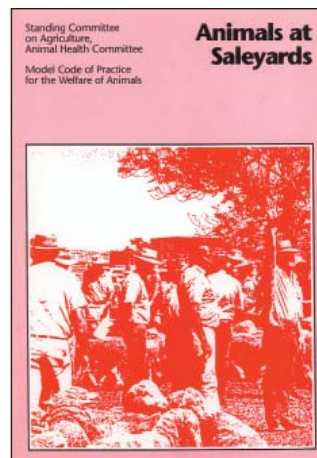
‘Primary Industries Standing Committee Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals Land Transport of Cattle SCRAM Report 77’.



“...BLR ensure that appropriate bio-security and disease control are in place at Biggenden Saleyards with respect to livestock movements in and out of regional Queensland.”



“...BLR also ensure that full NLIS compliance is adopted throughout the Biggenden Saleyards and all transactions involved in the selling and buying process.”



Both publications are available from the CSIRO or from the BLR offices in Biggenden.

BLR also work closely with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Bio-Security Queensland to ensure that appropriate **bio-security** and **disease control** are in place at

3.2 Cattle Welfare

BLR believes through demonstrating our commitment at each cattle sale in Biggenden that animal welfare is a key responsibility of a saleyard manager and is pivotal in the commercial viability of the Biggenden Saleyards.

BLR believes that best practice cattle welfare standards are not only ethically correct but we have an inherent belief that good animal welfare practices are necessary to produce excellent high-grade quality beef. Superior cattle welfare standards also achieve high prices for Wide Bay Burnett cattle producers, therefore, best practice cattle welfare standards are not only ethically correct but economically positive. That is why our commitment to best practice cattle welfare standards are necessary and responsible.

We also believe that cattle welfare standards are important to ensure the safety and quality of the 'food' products produced by Wide Bay Burnett cattle producers.

Since operations commenced in 2007 at Biggenden Saleyards, there have been no reported breaches of the Animal Welfare legislation or recognised industry codes of practice.



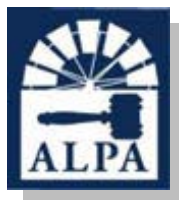
"...we have an inherent belief that good animal welfare practices are necessary to produce excellent high-grade quality beef."



3.3 Industry Accreditation

BLR maintain the following industry accreditations and Licences;

- All relevant Queensland and Commonwealth business licences to operate as a business with a trading name in Queensland;
- All Commonwealth taxation and Australian Security & Investments Commission requirements;
- All Licences to operate as an auctioneer and Livestock Agent in Queensland for all relevant employees and contractors of BLR;
- Membership of the **Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association (ALPA)** and the **Australian Livestock Markets Association Inc. (ALMA)**;
- Membership of the **Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ)**; and
- Burnett Livestock & Realty are also members of the **QLD Delcredere Insurance Scheme** to guarantee vendor payments. As a valued vendor your cattle payments are guaranteed, whether or not the buyer pays the proceeds.



A supervised jumping castle for kids during the school holidays has been used to mitigate the risk of children being injured in the cattle lanes/catwalks on Biggenden cattle sale days that occur during school holidays



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4. Occupational Health & Safety

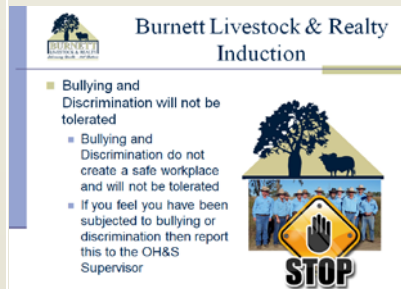
BLR utilises an Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Management System developed by ALPA entitled ‘**A Best Practice safety**

Management Guide for Saleyards and Working with Livestock’.

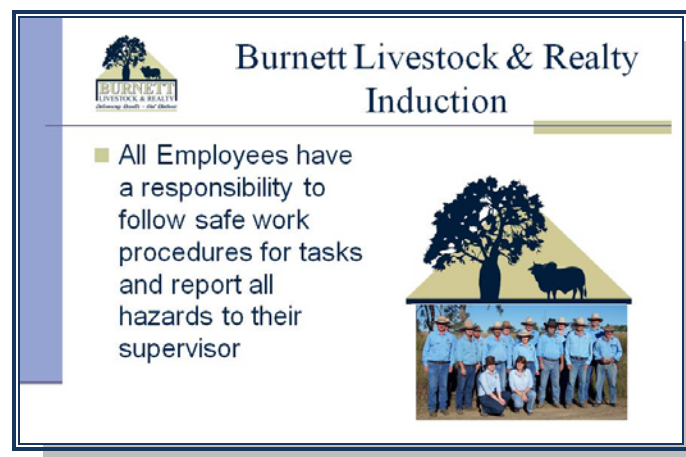
This Management System is compliant with all relevant State and Federal legislation.

This system is combined with monthly OH&S meetings of the **OH&S Management Committee** to review any reported near miss incidents or actual incidents if they occur.

Full induction training for all new employees and regular safety meetings for all existing employees ensure that unsafe working conditions or ‘hazards’ are identified in a timely manner and can be corrected should they occur. A specific powerpoint presentation has been written for all new BLR staff to complete before going on the job.



“...BLR create a safety first culture and a culture that reports unsafe working conditions immediately to management so that risk assessments and solutions can be undertaken in a timely manner with compliance assured.”




Safety briefings at Saleyards prior to sale occur when the need arises, however, regular maintenance of the saleyard facilities and the

time between fortnightly cattle sales allows for the correction of any unsafe working conditions prior to the next sale day.

These Management Systems create a safety first culture and a culture that reports unsafe working conditions immediately to management so that risk assessments and then solutions can be undertaken in a timely manner with compliance assured.




“...We also communicate regularly with our clients to educate cattle producers about withholding period compliance through our fortnightly Newsletter.”



Burnett Livestock & Realty Induction

- Bullying and Discrimination will not be tolerated
 - Bullying and Discrimination do not create a safe workplace and will not be tolerated
 - If you feel you have been subjected to bullying or discrimination then report this to the OH&S Supervisor



6. We invite the community to participate

Our detailed future plans for management of welfare at the Biggenden Saleyards are commercial-in-confidence, however, we invite the community to read our Welfare Plan and provide comment regarding the management of welfare at the Biggenden Saleyards. Letting us know is the first step to getting the issue resolved. Interested community members are welcome to contact our Director, Lance Whitaker on (07) 4127 1277 (b/h), 0407 139 901 (mobile), (07) 4127 1217 (a/hrs) or by email lance@burnettlr.com.au. Again, we appreciate any comment.