



# *Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria*

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## *April 2011*

### *Message from the President*

Dear Members,

This month we saw the Livestock transport industry get a huge amount of free press, and for all the wrong reasons. The incident involving the Domain tunnel certainly got us being noticed, particularly by the “do gooders”. I liken this to what one day could very much happen with animal welfare if we don’t keep our guard up. The tunnel incident is one that has been around for a long time and ultimately comes back to being a responsible operator and complying with our part in Chain of Responsibility. As professional operators we must ensure our drivers are informed to the correct route and ensure they stick to it. Animal welfare will require us to do the same and ensure we again play our part in the CoR.

The LTAV is currently working with a CoR lawyer to try to improve facilities and load-out times to help our drivers do their job safer. So it is up to us to ensure when we need to meet our CoR obligation, that we do it. Otherwise our own credibility is destroyed before we start. With the attention on our industry because of the tunnel incident it may be timely for us all to become more vigilant in our own businesses to ensure no more attention comes on us. The dairy industry is getting enough attention on the bobby calf issue, which we are already getting dragged into without more bad publicity. So please take a few minutes to review your business practices and see if you need to tidy anything up. After all it will be you who benefits.

On a more positive note this year’s conference is coming together extremely well and is shaping up to be a huge event. We have a great number of sponsors on board and many members are already taking advantage of the early bird rate to register. Jodi Fry and Christine have put in an enormous amount of work already and the results are showing. If you are considering coming please register and I am sure you will have a great time.

We sent out a survey last month for the on farm facilities which we are hoping to get a big response to. At present not many have replied. This is often the most common complaint area of members, and we need an overwhelming number of responses to this survey to give it some teeth when we talk to WorkSafe and the DPI to try to get results for you all. Please take 5 minutes to complete the form and send it to Christine as soon as possible.

With Easter on us again it is always a busy time on the roads as we all know. Please take care if you’re are working or travelling over the Easter break.

Keep safe

*Anthony Boyle*



**Easter Break**

Hope you all get some rest over Easter. The office will be closed from Good Friday 22nd to Thursday 28th inclusive. I'm going camping and will be out of mobile range until Thursday 28th. However, the fax is loaded with paper for your conference registration and accommodation bookings, and you can email or leave a message on the phone and I will attend to it as soon as I'm back in range. *Christine Odewahn*

**Next Conference Meeting – Saturday – 21st May 2011 – Venue TBC**

Conference Committee, please mark this one down on the calendar, and we will advise the venue asap. *Jodi Fry*

**Next Delegates Meeting – Saturday – 11th June 2011 – Venue TBC**

Please mark your calendar now, and plan to come along – we will be in the final stages of preparation for the conference and we will need your input. There will be plenty to report on with follow up on 'Facilities on Farms' the 'Transportation Fact Sheet', CoR and our AGM. Please let Christine or a delegate know if there is something you would like discussed or addressed by the committee. Agenda items will be closed off on 4th June.

**2011 National Conference - July 15 & 16 2011**

Delegate registrations are rolling in now – keep up the great work. Great to see so many people as excited as we are about our conference! If you haven't got your registration in yet – then please hurry to take advantage of the early bird accommodation offers. Once these rooms are booked and gone your choices become limited – so get in early – get the discounted rate – and save yourself the worry!

Our session presenters are being finalised and they will be well worth seeing and hearing. We are excited about hosting this National Conference and look forward to having our members together for a great time of business, networking, socialising and fun.

**Photo's – History of the LTAV** – Not getting photo's in! Do you have any old photos of LTAV functions? Or trucks and work photo's? We are celebrating 25 years of LTAV – so if you have any photo's from then until now – let's have them! You can email them to me [conference@ltav.com.au](mailto:conference@ltav.com.au) or copy and send them to me at Jodi fry, 3418 Woolsthorpe/Heywood Road, Broadwater, 3301. I want to put together a PowerPoint of our LTAV history.

**Rural Carriers** – If you have friends in transport that you think would be interested in coming to our conference – let Christine or myself know, and we can send them a registration package. The more the merrier!

**Drivers & Employees** – your drivers and employees are also invited and encouraged to attend. The sessions and content are relevant to all and we would encourage you to invite your drivers and employees.

**Sponsors** – We are grateful for the support we have received from all our sponsors, and we have some new sponsors keen to be involved in the conference and in the business of Livestock Transport. There are still a few sponsorship packages available but most have been secured.

**Member Support** - Can you help out at all? Call me on 0429 804 197 email [conference@ltav.com.au](mailto:conference@ltav.com.au) and let me know if you would be available to help out on the registration desk, or in any way at all. *Jodi Fry*

**NATIONAL SPONSORS**





Sponsor Spot

This month we recognize the support from all our sponsors who are supporting our National Conference

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



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### Echuca Truck Parking Facilities

Victorian Road Freight Advisory Council next meet on May 19<sup>th</sup> and a report of the outcome of the meeting in Echuca with Campaspe Shire will be provided.

*John Beer*

### On Farm Facilities - Survey

Thank you to those who have already completed their 'On Farm Facilities' Survey. The information we gather with this survey will provide us with the detail we need to address this issue. The DPI have recently contacted us after seeing the letter LTAV wrote to the Minister about this problem. They are also concerned about the risks to the safety of their employees and vets while working on farms with poorly maintained facilities.

If you have not yet completed and returned your survey, please do so as a matter of urgency. We need act on this as soon as possible and with WorkSafe Victoria Farm Safety Unit and the DPI interested, the time is right to push for improvements and upgrades. The survey is included again in this newsletter.

Also a reminder to take some photos of poorly maintained farm facilities, or obstacles which make your working day harder, which will also support our submission for change. You can email photos to the LTAV office or send in a text message if you use your phone. office@ltav.com.au or 0400 933 713.

*Bill Hickey & Graeme Thomas*

### Livestock Handling & Preparation for Transport

There has been little feedback on the Draft Livestock Transportation Fact Sheet. Understanding that this fact sheet is stating, 'best practice', and needs to be broad enough to cover most of the issues affecting carriers when transporting any livestock.

Education and Training organizations are being contacted to find out just how they cover preparation of livestock for transport and livestock handling in general.

Your thoughts are important to developing this material to be published for distribution to agents, farmers, abattoirs and also loaded onto the LTAV website. Please contact Mick Debenham or Pete Callanan to have your say on what should be included.

*Mick Debenham & Pete Callanan*

### VLLS – Next Course – Theory Day Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> in Pakenham

The next course is filling fast. If you want to complete this training and book your assessment, contact Christine in the office on 0400 933 713 as soon as possible.

**DATE:** Thursday – 12<sup>th</sup> May  
**TIME:** 9.00 AM  
**VENUE:** Cardinia Club Boardroom – Racecourse Rd, Pakenham  
**COST:** \$400 – non refundable deposit – must be sent in with enrolment

Fees for individuals depend on prior qualifications, but full cost is estimated to be \$700. It may be less but the RTO Wodonga TAFE will determine this under their complex fee structure. It will be calculated for each individual depending on the information you fill in on your enrolment form.

Attached is the 'DRAFT' LTAV Position Statement for the VLLS. Feel free to contact the office if you have any comments or wish to have some input into this position statement.

*Pete Callanan*

### Bobby Calves

I have spoken to a few meat processors about the bobby calf issue and all agree that the only factor we need to be concerned with is to ensure we don't exceed the 12 hours on transport for calves. The time off feed is up to the processor ultimately. So if you transport bobby calves please document time on your trucks.

*Anthony Boyle*



### VTA Workshops & Seminar on Modern Awards

On 5<sup>th</sup> April we attended a Free Seminar run by VTA on the Road Transport Modern Awards. It was an informative 2 hour session on understanding the Modern Awards under the Fair Work legislation. Australian Road Transport Industrial Organisation – ARTIO, have compiled a handbook for each of the two road transport awards. These can be downloaded directly from the ARTIO website <http://www.artio.org.au>. Hard copies are also available through the VTA or the LTAV office. They break down the awards, into easy to read and understand language and are a useful tool to assist you to manage your responsibilities as employers.

The VTA has also held workshops in regional Victoria to give information about;

- Industry update - current industry developments and how they will affect you
- Industrial relations –
  - o Safe Rates: where the TWU campaign is at and what is likely to happen in the next few months
  - o Award Handbooks: come along and receive your free award handbook which will make the award more understandable and much easier to apply (there are handbooks for the Road Transport & Distribution Award 2010 and the Road Transport Long Distance Operations Award 2010
  - o Some recent decisions from Fair Work Australia that may have an impact on the way you run your business
- Local issues - discuss issues that are important in your region
- Workers Compensation –
  - o What businesses must do to ensure they comply with workers compensation law, how to keep costs to a minimum and how to support workers who have a workplace injury
- Superannuation and Business – working together for results
- Insurance & Management Liability - how you should be protected
- Health Insurance - keeping employees health in focus

There is one more Workshop to be held in Horsham on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. All Workshops are free and open to VTA members and the public. Registration is essential. To find out more contact the VTA on Ph. 03 9646 8590 or email

[reception@vta.com.au](mailto:reception@vta.com.au)

*Pete Callanan & Christine Odewahn*

### LTAV Website



It is good to see the members taking up the opportunity of having their business details listed on our website on the 'Locate a Carrier' page. It is certainly worth having your business listed and it's FREE! You can have a link to your own website if you have one.

We are reviewing the layout of the website, and looking at a better way to use the full width of the page. Keep an eye on it and let me know if there is other information you would like to see available on our site.

*Christine Odewahn*

### Humour ☺

What do you call a cow that has only two left legs?  
Lean Beef!

What do you call a cow that has no legs at all?  
Ground Beef!

Why does a milking stool have only three legs?  
Because the cow has the udder!



April 2011

## Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme - VLLS LTAV Position Statement

The Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria is a non profit organisation funded by memberships and sponsorship. The core business of the association is to provide current, accurate and relevant resources, information and assistance to its members on issues relating to the transportation of livestock in Victoria and nationally. And, to advocate on behalf of the members, on road transport issues of legislation and regulation with government at all levels and other industry stakeholders.

The VLLS scheme is governed by the Victoria Government Gazette, No. S 405 issue effective 9/11/2009 and is enforceable by law to 9/11/2014. The VLLS scheme is administered by VicRoads.

The Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme training and assessment is administered by the VicRoads accredited Registered Training Organisation, (RTO) Wodonga TAFE. The planning booking and coordination of the training and assessment is administered by the LTAV secretariat in collaboration with the RTO to enable members to become trained, assessed and accredited under the scheme.

1. The LTAV advocates strict adherence to regulations governing transportation of livestock in accordance with Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Codes of Practice – Currently State Based.  
(Note: New National Regulations and Legislation pending – July 2011)
2. The LTAV provides assistance and information to members to assist them to adhere to animal welfare regulations and the Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme gazette.
3. The Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme was implemented in 1996/7 to address animal welfare during transportation codes of practice and to enhance vehicle stability.
4. Pen Density loading is the basis of VLLS for animal welfare and also assists with stabilizing live loads in transit.  
(Note: Under new legislation pending July 2011, failing to load and transport to pen density guidelines will be a major breach)
5. LTAV, in partnership with the RTO, Wodonga TAFE has set a high standard for training and assessment. Training and assessment was revised in 2007 and more evidence of competence is now required and gathered, through informal and on the job training and formal training and assessment. This is competency based training and assessment which results in a nationally recognised qualification with a statement of attainment issued upon successful completion for; Care for Livestock in Transit, Plan and Navigate Routes, Drive Heavy / Multi Combination Vehicle and Inspect Vehicles Designed To Carry Special Loads.
6. The LTAV recognises the VLLS as a quality system which is valued and promoted with benefits to all in the supply chain. Outcomes are;

Less stress for livestock in transit	Vehicle stability
Quality service for consignor and consignee	Assists to attain high quality food products
Possible increased carrier / client productivity	Transportation / Environmental efficiency

## **NHVR UPDATE – A Trailer Feedback Required**

At the last meeting delegate meeting at Kenworth all attending completed a survey on the NHVR and how they see it affecting them. Both positives and negatives, and we submitted them all to NHVR Project Office, along with an overview from the association. George Konstandakos contacted me and thanked us for this input. He is requesting some examples as evidence of inappropriate charging for A Trailer registrations. WE NEED YOU to let us know how this charging affects you, the members. How many days you use you're A trailer, an idea of how much income it generates for you, is it financed and how it affects your ability to get work if you don't have the option of a B-double configuration. Please put a few notes on paper and email or fax them into the office, or give me a call, 0428 404 168 to pass on the issues affecting you with A Trailer Registrations.

*Pete Callanan*

### **Key milestones**

#### **September 2010**

A National Industry Forum held in Newcastle.

#### **End 2010**

Further State and Territory agency consultation and engagement activities occurred.

#### **28 February 2011 – 6 April**

Ten-week consultation period for the draft NHVR Law & Regulatory Impact Statement

#### **Mid-2011**

Australian Transport Council will consider a draft of the NHVR laws.

#### **Mid to late 2011**

Queensland will introduce the NHVR laws to State Parliament.

#### **Early to Mid 2012**

State and Territory agencies will introduce the NHVR laws to their State Parliaments.

#### **1 January 2013**

The NHVR and national laws will be fully established.





## Livestock Transportation Fact Sheet – DRAFT FOR YOUR INPUT

This document is being prepared by the Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria, with assistance from the DPI and WorkSafe Victoria. The aim is to provide current and useful information to assist farmers and agents to prepare stock for transportation to meet all regulatory compliance and care of livestock during transportation. It is a guide to compliance regarding the new animal welfare legislation, load restraint, environmental issues and Chain of Responsibility requirements.

Prior to transporting of livestock from a property, in accordance with the new animal welfare Regulations there are several things that need to be done to create less stress to the livestock, the carrier, the farmer and present livestock in the best possible condition. This has the potential to reduce the cost of transportation and the potential to raise the income from the sale of the livestock.

All livestock categories should be drafted and sorted into pen or load lots 2 to 3 days prior to, or at least 24 hours prior to transportation. Get the stock used to being in close proximity to animals that they will be penned within the truck. Ideally – into weight and size categories. The stock should then be put back into a paddock to settle – 2 days to 24 hours prior to loading.

24 hours prior to loading, stock should be brought up into close proximity of loading yards.

12 to 24 hours prior to loading, stock should be taken off natural feed, yarded with suitable shelter and flooring and if necessary, fed dry hay to bind them up. This reduces effluent in transit. The cattle travel better, load and unload with less stress, and are cleaner and better presented at their destination. It also has a positive impact on the environment. Effluent spillage from a vehicle is a load restraint breach. If a load restraint breach occurs, the person transporting the stock and the consignor are also liable under the chain of responsibility for lack of preparation for transport. It can impact on the time it takes to transport stock if a carrier has to stop at a facility to drain effluent from the crate/s. It also has a positive effect on the environment by saving water and reducing the wash out time.

CoR Event	Example of non conformance	Breach	Penalty
Effluent spillage from vehicle during transportation	Effluent spilling out the back of the vehicle on the road surface while travelling	Minor	Possible fine up to \$4,000
	Effluent spilling resulting in minor damage to property and it is a safety hazard	Moderate	Possible fines between \$30 - \$40,000
	Effluent spillage resulting in major damage and/or injury or death to persons	Severe	Possible fine of \$100,000 + and/or jail

Cattle and Sheep should be taken off water 12 to 24 hours prior to transport subject to conditions. E.g. Condition of stock and weather conditions.

Make sure animals meet the criteria for fit to load. Refer to the Code of Conduct for transportation of stock.



## Livestock Transportation Fact Sheet – **DRAFT FOR YOUR INPUT**

Ensure clear access to the property and loading facilities. Remove hazards, machinery or equipment and provide adequate room for the turning circle and reversing of the vehicle.

Advise carriers of access, entry and exits to the property and site hazards. Eg. Narrow gateways, rabbit holes near loading ramp etc, overhead power lines, slippery surfaces, low overhead structures and tree branches.

Make any repairs to gates, ramps, latches etc. and ensure flooring in ramp is safe and everything is workable to meet OHS Requirements. Refer Beef Cattle Handling, A Practical Safety Guide, publication of WorkSafe Victoria.

Arrange a carrier and organise a suitable loading time and give the carrier as much notice as possible as this will assist the carrier to schedule the appropriate size vehicle and driver to meet the Fatigue driving hour's regulations.

Prior to truck arriving, get livestock as close as possible to the loading race and keep the stock as calm as possible.

Make sure someone is there to assist with loading. If this is not possible, ensure the carrier has clear instructions of where the stock are, which ones to take, number of head and all relevant details. Also provide a contact number of someone for the carrier to ring if something is not right.

Make sure all documentation to be sent with load e.g. NVD's are fully completed and ready to pass on to the carrier.

Ensure the use of prodders is kept to a minimum

Under the new national regulations for transportation of livestock, and under CoR law, you are not to overcrowd livestock in pen spaces per square metre. See scale below as a guide.

The following densities are recommended upper limits. The transport operator should consider varying these densities in regard to weather conditions, length of wool, breed of stock and polled or horned species.

<b>Cattle Loading Density</b>	<b>Live Weight</b>	<b>Head per deck 6.25 x 2.4m = 20' deck</b>	<b>Head per deck 12.5m x 2.4m = 40' deck</b>
	300 kg	18	36
	400 kg	14	28
	600 kg	10	20
<b>Sheep Loading Density</b>	<b>Live Weight</b>	<b>Head per pen 3.125m x 2.4m</b>	<b>Head per deck 12.5m x 2.4m = 40' deck</b>
	20 kg	40	160
	40 kg	30	120
	50 kg	27	108
<b>Pig Loading Density</b>	<b>Live Weight</b>	<b>Head per pen 3.125m x 2.4m</b>	<b>Head per deck 12.5m x 2.4m = 40' deck</b>
	75 kg	22	84
	125 kg	17	68
	200 kg	12	44
<b>Bobby Calf Loading Density</b>	<b>Live Weight</b>	<b>Head per pen 3.125m x 2.4m</b>	<b>Head per deck 12.5m x 2.4m = 40' deck</b>
	50 kg	25	100
	100 kg	20	80
	150 kg	16	64

The cost of transporting livestock is charged in a variety of ways.

Per head - Per load - Per km – Per Hour - depending on a number of variables

Cartage from your property to a destination is a measurable and calculable cost.

Yarding, drafting and loading however can greatly impact on the cost of transporting your livestock. The more time a carrier spends at your property getting the livestock ready to be loaded, or loading stock that have not been properly prepared for transportation, will add to the overall cost to the customer.



Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria

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**ON FARM FACILITIES  
SURVEY OF LTAV MEMBERS & DRIVERS EXPERIENCES**

**Please tell us what sort of experiences you have had with loading / unloading at farms**

What percentage of your work is direct to or from farms? .....

How many farms do you cart to and/or from that have yards and ramps in need of repair? Est. % or Number .....

What type of problems do you encounter? *Loose boards – Nails / sharp objects protruding – Broken latches/ gates – etc*

Stock yards:.....

.....

Loading ramps:.....

.....

Surface in yards:.....

.....

Other:.....

**What access problems do you encounter?  
*Trees – ramp structure – power lines – etc***

Overhead hazards:.....

Limited maneuverability to ramps due to obstacles in the way?.....

Difficulty at entry?.....

Have you witnessed injuries to livestock due to poor facilities on farms? Yes / No Number of injuries?.....

Type of injuries:.....

Have you or your employees ever been injured while loading / unloading on farms? Yes / No - Number of Injuries.....

Type of injuries:.....

Minor - .....

Moderate - .....

Major - .....

Minor  
Cuts/Abrasions/Knocks  
Self Managed

Moderate  
Medical attention/Doctor  
Less than 2 days off work

Major  
More than 2 days off work  
Hospital/WorkCover Claim

***Please describe occurrence/s and injuries***

What duration have you lost work/income due to injuries received on farms for any reason? .....

What action have you taken following these events? .....

