

MEDIA RELEASE

27 February 2018

Record response to poultry welfare standards during public consultation

A record number of submissions have been received on the draft *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry (S&Gs)* during the 90 day public consultation period, which came to an end on Monday.

With over 165,000 submissions, it's the largest response to a public consultation that Animal Health Australia (AHA) has managed, said Kathleen Plowman, AHA CEO.

"It's currently five times the amount of submissions received during the development of welfare standards and guidelines for other industries, mindful that final numbers won't be known for a few more weeks as collation continues," said Ms Plowman.

"AHA recognises and appreciates the efforts of all stakeholders who helped spread the word about public consultation, ensuring the message went far and wide. Such extensive public consultation is what we set out to achieve, so it's a fantastic result.

"We also thank everyone who shared their views on the draft document. These submissions will help guide the development of the next version of the S&Gs and ensure that a robust document is delivered to Australia's agriculture ministers," said Ms Plowman.

The draft standards mark an important step forward in poultry welfare in Australia, moving from the existing voluntary system to national regulation. The document was open for public consultation from Monday 27 November 2017 and closed for comment at 5pm Monday 26 February 2018.

Next steps following public consultation include:

- Submissions will be reviewed by an independent consultant, who will deliver a report with key findings to the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG). The AWTG includes representatives from all government jurisdictions.
- Based on these findings, a revised welfare standards document will be developed under the direction of the AWTG.
- The revised welfare standards will then be provided for consideration to the Stakeholder Advisory Group, which is comprised of representatives from industry bodies, welfare organisations and all government jurisdictions.
- The S&Gs document will be finalised by the AWTG and progress to Australia's agricultural ministers.

The independent consultant's report and the major submissions will be available in June 2018 on the Animal Welfare Standards – Poultry website.

Further details about the process can be found at

<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/poultry/poultry-public-consultation/>.

ENDS

MEDIA RELEASE

About Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

Media enquiries: Jackie Poyser 0410 994 410/JPoyser@animalhealthaustralia.com.au