



MEDIA RELEASE

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Saleyards call for in depth trial prior to full blown implementation of eRFID

The Australian Livestock Markets Association (ALMA) is the sole peak national body representing saleyard owners and operators. Saleyards are the primary means of determining the monetary value of livestock. The subsequent value of direct and private sales is underpinned by the saleyard market which traditionally sets the market price.

ALMA, along with other peak farm and agent groups representing Australia's lamb, sheepmeat, wool, goat producers, saleyards and agents, supports the current national mob-based tracing scheme under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

ALMA Chairman Steve Loane said that 'Whilst we welcome technological advances that support, improve and secure industry growth Minister Pulford's decision to rush implementation of mandatory eRFID sheep and goats is a disastrous outcome for our industry, both in Victoria and nationally. Whilst it appears on-farm implications for mandatory eRFID have been considered, it is clear that the operational implications for saleyards have not received the same level of thought.

ALMA disputes Minister Pulford's comments that 'industry is ready for this change'.

'ALMA supports industry change that has been thoroughly and intelligently considered through the review of available and relevant information combined with sufficient and meaningful consultation with the entire industry,' Mr Loane said.

ALMA, has written to the Victorian Government, and among other matters urged it to delay the proposed implementation date of 1 July 2017 for saleyards. Such a delay would allow for a commercial saleyard trial to be conducted and results fully digested prior to mandatory scanning in saleyards becoming compulsory.

'Without the conduct of an in depth trial in a major saleyard facility at commercial speeds, tax payer and industry funding will be wasted,' Mr Loane said.

ALMA and the saleyard industry eagerly awaits the release of the final Transition Package and Standards, and will continue to work with industry and the Victorian Government to ensure that any mandatory change is in the best interests of the entire sheep and goat supply chain.

ENDS

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