



MEDIA RELEASE

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Saleyard action ahead for Chain of Responsibility

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.

The ALMA board met in Canberra last week to look at how upcoming Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) reforms could affect saleyard owners and operators and also discussed the matter with the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association which agreed to engage on the development of a registered industry code of practice.

In mid 2018 amendments to the HVNL will mean that every party in the heavy vehicle transport supply chain, not just the driver, has a shared responsibility to prevent breaches and ensure the safety of transport activities.

ALMA President, Ken Timms, said that 'We support the concept of all parts of the supply chain banning together to promote public safety and to ensure a safe, efficient and productive freight industry.'

ALMA is however concerned that the reforms will have adverse implications and unreasonable compliance burden placed on saleyards and unfairly impact on those saleyard owners and operators who are defined as *loading managers* but do not undertake or have a contractual relationship with the unloading or loading of livestock.

The board has reviewed legal advice on the Chain of Responsibility (CoR) matter and determined to seek a meeting with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator in order to 'stress test' the recommendations made by the legal advisors.'

ALMA, has written to and met with the Federal Government and sought its support to have the *loading manager* definition changed so that saleyard owners and operators are not captured and the definition truly reflects the activity and not the person who manages or is responsible for the operation of the saleyard premise.

ALMA is working to develop a CoR 101 guide which will be distributed to saleyards as well as those people/businesses that operate in or use saleyard facilities for the sale/transfer of livestock. In addition, we will be offering a CoR forum at the upcoming ALMA National Saleyards Expo in Casino NSW on 25 & 26 July 2018.

'Members can be assured that ALMA is working hard to ensure that the livestock saleyards industry is able to meet its obligations under the legislation without suffering undue stress or impost', Mr Timms said.

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