



16 October 2026

The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Western New South Wales
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

RE: PROPOSED OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association (LBRCA) notes the NSW Government's introduction of legislation on 13 October 2026 to establish an independent Office of Animal Welfare. As you may be aware, LBRCA is the peak industry body representing rural carriers, moving critical agricultural products and livestock.

LBRCA supports transparent, consistent and accountable animal welfare regulation and recognises the importance of maintaining public confidence in the enforcement of animal welfare legislation. We understand the proposed Office will primarily provide independent oversight of animal welfare enforcement activities undertaken by RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League NSW, including reviewing performance, investigating complaints and advising government on enforcement arrangements.

However, given the important role livestock transport operators play in maintaining animal welfare throughout the supply chain, LBRCA is seeking clarification on the proposed Office's functions and whether these may extend to the regulation, oversight or development of animal welfare policy affecting commercial livestock transport.

As you would be aware, the livestock and rural transport sector is already subject to a range of legislative and regulatory requirements as it relates to animal welfare, biosecurity, loading, and road access. In addition to codes of practice, standards, voluntary accreditation and guidance. LBRCA would appreciate clarification on the following matters:

Scope of responsibilities

Will the proposed Office have any direct or advisory responsibilities relating to livestock transport, including loading practices, animal handling, fitness for transport and compliance with applicable animal welfare requirements?



Regulatory and enforcement oversight

Will the Office's oversight functions extend to animal welfare compliance and enforcement activities involving livestock transport operators, including investigations or enforcement actions undertaken by authorised officers?

Policy development

Will the Office have a role in reviewing, recommending or influencing future animal welfare standards, codes of practice or regulatory requirements affecting livestock transport?

Regulatory coordination

How will the Office interact with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Local Land Services, Transport for NSW and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator where animal welfare and heavy vehicle regulatory responsibilities intersect?

Industry consultation

What mechanisms will be established to ensure livestock transport operators and their representative organisations are consulted on matters that may affect their operations?

LBRCA is particularly interested in ensuring that the establishment of the Office does not introduce unnecessary regulatory duplication or uncertainty for livestock transport operators, who already operate within a complex framework of animal welfare, heavy vehicle safety and Chain of Responsibility obligations.

It is important that any future changes to animal welfare policy or enforcement arrangements recognise the practical operating conditions of livestock transport and the shared responsibilities of producers, agents, saleyards, processors and transport operators.

As the peak representative body for livestock, bulk and rural carriers, LBRCA would welcome the opportunity to engage with your Department as the legislation progresses and, where appropriate, contribute to the development of the Office's operational arrangements.

We would appreciate your advice on the matters raised and look forward to continuing to work constructively with the NSW Government to support positive animal welfare outcomes and a practical, consistent regulatory framework for the livestock transport industry.

Yours sincerely,

Wade Lewis
President

Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association Inc.