



LIVESTOCK, BULK AND RURAL CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

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20 October 2026

Mr Peter Thompson
General Manager
Wagga Wagga City Council
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Via: lmc@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre - Sheep Loading Ramp Renewal (CT2027006) - request for Industry Design Consultation

Dear Mr Thompson,

The Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association (LBRCA) welcomes Wagga Wagga City Council's decision on 12 October 2026 to award funding for the replacement of sheep loading ramps at the Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre. The investment is an important opportunity to improve livestock handling efficiency, operator safety and animal welfare at one of Australia's major livestock selling facilities.

LBRCA represents livestock, bulk and rural transport operators across Australia and has an ongoing interest in the safety, design and operation of livestock loading infrastructure. Our members regularly encounter loading facilities of varying standards, with poor vehicle compatibility, inadequate access arrangements and unclear operational responsibilities creating avoidable safety risks for drivers and livestock.

We are therefore seeking an opportunity to contribute practical industry advice to the project's detailed design before it is finalised, where the project timetable permits.

LBRCA would welcome a technical discussion with Council, the Livestock Marketing Centre management and the appointed contractor, ProWay Livestock Equipment, covering:

- **Vehicle compatibility:** Ensuring ramps accommodate the range of livestock transport configurations using the facility, including multi-deck trailers, B-doubles and road trains, with appropriate consideration of ramp heights, gradients, vehicle positioning and manoeuvring requirements.
- **Driver safety and welfare:** Safe access and egress, pedestrian separation, fall protection, non-slip surfaces and minimising situations where drivers are required to enter hazardous areas during loading and unloading.
- **Animal welfare:** Appropriate ramp geometry, livestock flow, gate arrangements and infrastructure that supports safe, low-stress handling.



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LBRCA considers it particularly important that infrastructure design and operating procedures do not inadvertently transfer responsibility for unsafe facilities or infrastructure deficiencies onto transport drivers.

We encourage Council to ensure the design appropriately addresses Australian Standard AS 5340:2020 - Livestock loading/unloading ramps and forcing pens, alongside established industry insights from operator experience. To assist, LBRCA would be pleased to coordinate input from experienced livestock transport operators and contribute to a practical design review.

We recognise that Council has already committed to delivering this project and our intention is not to delay construction or revisit the procurement decision. Rather, we see an opportunity to ensure that this investment delivers infrastructure that is safe, practical, and fit for purpose throughout its operating life.

We would appreciate confirmation of the current design and construction timetable and whether a short technical review meeting could be arranged before design sign-off.

In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to again raise concerns from members and the supply chain regarding the lack of all-weather facilities. LBRCA has previously asked for a roof over the facility and greater use of covered yards in wet periods to help mitigate human and animal welfare risks, biosecurity hazards and spread of muck and effluent.

We look forward to working constructively with Council and ProWay to support a successful project and an outcome that could serve as a practical example for future livestock loading infrastructure upgrades across regional NSW. For more information, please contact LBRCA's General Manager of Policy, Mr Scott O'Connell on 0413 424 384 or scott.oconnell@lbrca.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Wade Lewis
President
Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association Inc.