



Michelle Edge: RD&E Priorities

# The need for animal welfare RD&E

- The increasing prominence of animal welfare as an issue confronting industry;
- The need to continually improve productivity whilst safeguarding animal welfare;
- The need to underpin policy with sound, science based solutions;
- Changing expectations of consumers and the general community regarding animal welfare standards;
- The development and proliferation of animal welfare standards by retailers and trading partners;
- Increasing pressures from animal rights organisations and consequent market impacts;
- More competition for resources
- The need to maintain market access and the social licence to operate



# RD&E priorities

- Industry strategic plans considered
- Identified similarities across RD&E priorities for each industry
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy RD&E priorities considered and included
- Themes developed with underpinning “focus areas” and outcomes
  - Enables flexibility for industries to determine their own projects (either within this Strategy or the other Sector Strategies)
  - Provides clear communication on national direction of animal welfare RD&E
  - Enables direct linkage with Sector Specific RD&E Strategy themes e.g. theme 5 is reflected in the sheepmeat and beef Strategies)

RD&E themes – each accompanied by more detailed focus areas and outcomes

Theme 1:  
Animal Welfare Assessment

Theme 2:  
Pain assessment and management

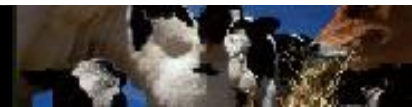
Theme 3:  
Management, housing and husbandry

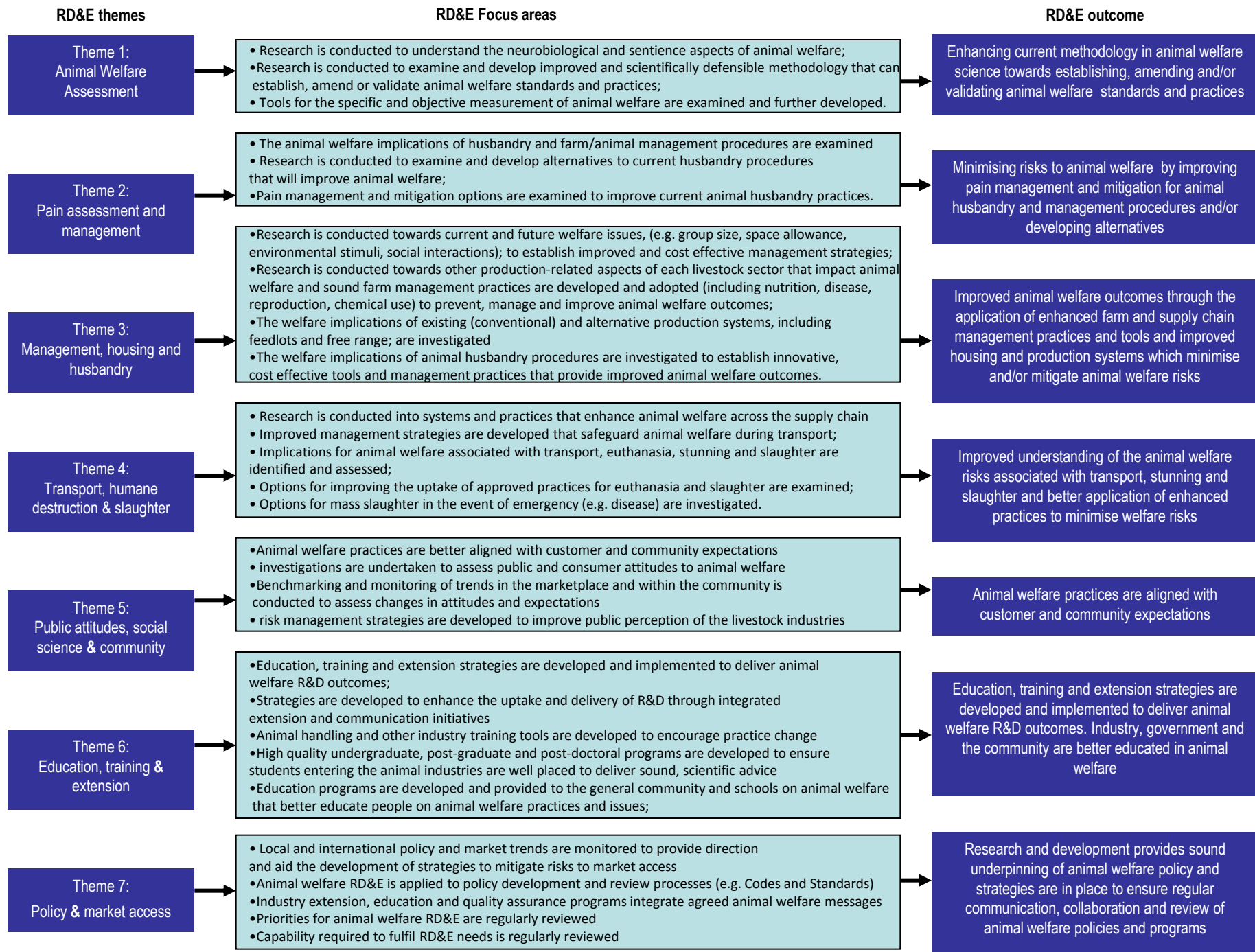
Theme 4:  
Transport, humane destruction & slaughter

Theme 5:  
Public attitudes, social science & community

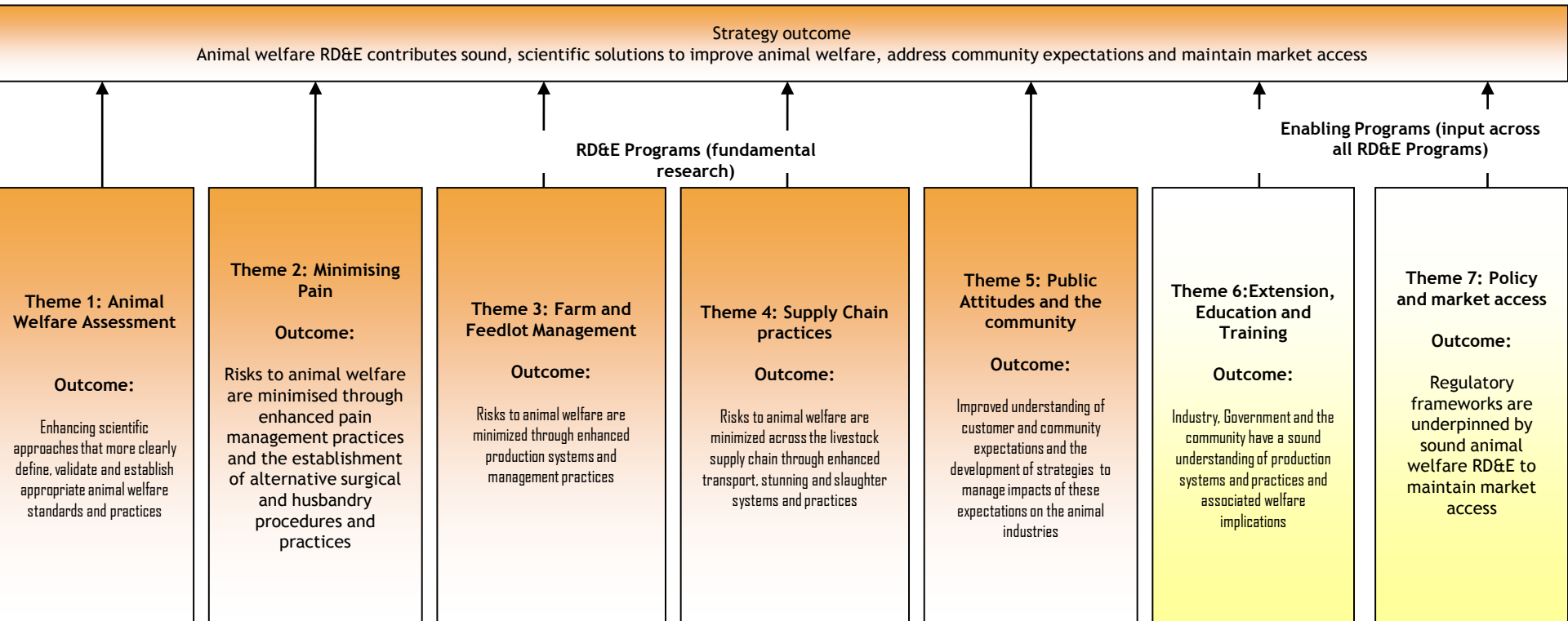
Theme 6:  
Education, training & extension

Theme 7:  
Policy & market access





# National Outcomes and RD&E themes



# Themes and underpinning focus areas

Theme 1: Animal Welfare Assessment	Theme 2: Pain Management	Theme 3: Management Housing and Husbandry	Theme 4: Transport and Slaughter	Theme 5: Public Attitudes and the community	Theme 6: Extension, Education of Training	Theme 7: Policy and Market access
FOCUS AREAS:	FOCUS AREAS:	FOCUS AREAS:	FOCUS AREAS:	FOCUS AREAS:	FOCUS AREAS:	FOCUS AREAS:
<p>1 Understanding the neurobiological and sentience aspects of animal welfare</p> <p>2 Applying scientifically defensible methodology to establish, amend or validate animal welfare standards and practices</p> <p>3 Identify/develop specific and objective measures of animal welfare</p>	<p>1 Investigating current surgical procedures towards establishing alternatives that will improve animal welfare</p> <p>2 Review, evaluate and apply efficient and cost effective pain management strategies to improve current animal husbandry practices</p>	<p>1 Researching current and future welfare issues, (e.g group size, space allowance, environmental stimuli, social interactions), towards establishing improved management strategies</p> <p>2 Developing sound farm management practices (including nutrition, disease, chemical use) to prevent, manage and improve animal welfare outcomes</p> <p>3 Investigating the welfare implications of existing (conventional) and alternative production systems, including feedlots and free range</p> <p>4 Investigating the welfare implications of current and future animal husbandry procedures and supporting the development of innovative, cost effective tools and management practices that provide improved animal welfare outcomes</p>	<p>1 Investigate the animal welfare implications of road, sea and air transport and develop improved management strategies that safeguard animal welfare</p> <p>2 Investigate current and future animal welfare issues associated with transport, euthanasia, stunning and slaughter</p> <p>3 Examine options for improving the uptake of approved practices for euthanasia and slaughter</p> <p>4 Investigate options for mass slaughter in the event of emergency (e.g disease)</p>	<p>1 Investigate and understand public and consumer attitudes towards assisting in developing animal welfare standards aimed at providing assurance that animal welfare is being safeguarded</p> <p>2 Benchmark and monitor trends in changing attitudes to animal welfare that impact market access</p> <p>3 Develop risk management strategies to improve public perception of the livestock industries</p>	<p>1 Develop and support industry education and training tools, with focus on target areas such as animal handling and animal husbandry practices</p> <p>2 Provide high-quality undergraduate, post-graduate and post-doctoral education programs that ensure students entering the animal industries are well prepared to deliver sound, scientific advice</p> <p>3 Establish education programs for the general community and schools on animal welfare and that better educate people on animal welfare practices and issues</p> <p>4 Enhance the uptake of animal welfare training and extension programs in industry</p> <p>5 Facilitate and improve the adoption of animal welfare messages through existing industry extension and farm quality assurance programs</p>	<p>1 Monitor overseas and other livestock sector policy trends and research outcomes and improve strategies to manage implications from overseas policy and future input into overseas policy</p> <p>2 Apply animal welfare RD&amp;E to review of Codes and Standards and provide sound scientific advice to support new policy</p> <p>3 Review and develop animal welfare priorities and industry strategies (ongoing part of the implementation/change plan for the RD&amp;E strategy)</p> <p>4 Ensure capability to provide high-level policy advice on a needs basis</p> <p>5 Address gaps in RD&amp;E capacity through improved collaboration, communication and long term RD&amp;E priority planning and project tender processes (to be delivered in overall RD&amp;E strategy implementation/change plan)</p>

