

Possible Risks Resulting In Welfare Issues

Extensive Beef Cattle

The following is a list of possible common risks that extensive beef producers may face

- Fire
- Flood
- Movement or transport of sick animals or animals too poor from drought
- Accidents in transport (truck roll-overs or derailments)
- Cattle escaping onto roads
- Manager/staff leaving unexpectedly
- Sudden loss of access to feed, feed quality deteriorates or is burnt
- Sudden loss of access to water or feed quality deteriorates
- Calving difficulties
- Toxicity (e.g. plant toxins or agricultural chemicals)
- Infectious diseases (e.g. black leg, anthrax, botulism, pink eye, EBL, BJD)
- Response to an exotic disease outbreak (e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease)
- Maltreatment (e.g. lack of staff training and inappropriate animal husbandry, overgrazing and underfeeding etc.)
- Preparedness for appropriate animal euthanasia procedures (staff training)
- Sudden lack of management or operational staff and stock supervision (e.g. staff leave without notice)
- Malicious animal harm or infrastructure damage and stock release (e.g. by disgruntled ex-staff)
- Issues following routine procedures (e.g. infection and disease following dehorning, branding & castration)
- Animal theft

Risks with slower onset

- Inability to implement management changes due to age, isolation, family crisis, illness, financial difficulty, etc.
- Drought, lack of water and lack of feed
- Lack of supervision/observation (loss of condition, disease, animal locked/caught in yards/pens/paddocks etc.)
- Sudden loss of market and build-up of stock numbers and overgrazing
- Parasites and disease (e.g. worms, liver fluke, biting insects, EBL, BJD)
- Toxic plant risks (e.g. lantana, pimelia, poison peach, mother of millions)
- Lack of staff training and poor animal husbandry outcomes
- Predators (wild dogs, foxes and pigs, especially attacking calves)
- Lack of accurate records and trend identification
- Lack of ability to forecast or predict extreme events (e.g. el Niño, long range forecasting, fire or flood danger)
- Introducing diseased or carrier animals, especially with lack of Vendor Declarations (e.g. BJD, EBL, BVD, etc.)
- High staff turnover and poor access to often expensive remote training
- Personal values poorly aligned with increasing legal and best practices standards and community expectations
- Poor communications, back-up if base loses power, loss of mobile phone towers etc.
- Transport: Need for vehicle emergency kit, bolt cutters wire cutters spare tyre, first aid etc.
- Fire arms – necessary for humane slaughter (available, maintained, ammunition etc.)
- Cattle owners have a small herd, or own cattle as pets and do not fully understand the management skills required

Seek assistance if necessary, through;

- Local council
- Industry Organisations
- State Government, Departments of Primary industries (DPI, DAF)