

# Possible Risks Resulting In Welfare Issues

## Extensive Sheep and Goats

The following is a list of possible common risks that extensive sheep and goat producers may face;

- Fire
- Flood
- Environment extremes (e.g. cold and wet conditions with lambs and kids)
- Movement or transport of sick animals or animals too poor from drought
- Sheep escaping onto roads
- Accidents in transport (truck roll-overs or derailments)
- Manager/staff leaving unexpectedly
- Sudden loss of access to feed, feed quality deteriorates or is burnt
- Sudden loss of access to water or water quality deteriorates
- Infectious disease (e.g. clostridial, foot conditions, salmonella, E.coli, anthrax, botulism)
- Parasites (e.g. Barbers pole worm, flystrike)
- Predators (wild dogs, foxes, eagles and pigs)
- Response to an exotic disease outbreak (e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease)
- Metabolic diseases and nutritional diseases (lack of energy and pregnancy toxemia)
- Toxicity (e.g. poor animal health products treatment technique, plant toxicity)
- Maltreatment (poor staff training, poor husbandry and routine management procedures at marking)
- Preparedness for appropriate animal humane killing (staff training)
- Sudden lack of management or operational staff and stock supervision
- Malicious animal harm or infrastructure damage and stock release
- 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, lack of feed, lack of specific nutrients
- Overstocking
- Nutritional disorders and deficiencies (e.g. energy, grain poisoning, urinary calculi, copper, selenium, etc.)
- Lack of supervision/observation (loss of condition, disease, animal locked/caught in yards/pens/paddocks, animals caught in fences etc.)
- Lack of supervision/husbandry (feet trimming and teeth wear/loss)
- Unshorn sheep becoming cast
- Sheep and goats with horns being caught in fences
- Diseases (e.g. Cheesy gland, Ovine Johne's disease, Ovine brucellosis, coccidiosis, pink eye, foot conditions)
- Sudden loss of market
- Parasites (internal parasites, lice, mites)
- Lack of staff training and poor animal husbandry outcomes
- Predators (wild dogs and pigs)
- 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 (vendor declarations)
- Unable to get pregnant ewes shorn (e.g. shearers strikes, shortage, lack of planning)
- High staff turnover and poor access to remote training
- Personal values poorly aligned with increasing legal and best practices standards and community expectations
- Poor communications, back-up needed 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.)
- Sheep or goat owners have a small flock or own them as pets and do not fully understand the management skills required

Seek assistance if necessary to define risks, through;

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