

TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION (17 January 2024)

– REPORT MAY 2024

NO	MOTION	STATUS	COMMENTS
3a	Urgent audit of the humane treatment of animals in all licensed slaughterhouses both through food safety audits and focussed animal welfare inspections.	Completed	<p>Biosecurity Tasmania completed a round of unannounced visits to all abattoirs and slaughterhouse to check compliance with animal welfare standards between December 2023 and early March 2024.</p> <p>Food safety audits under the <i>Primary Produce Safety Act 2011</i> (which includes animal welfare considerations) of all operating facilities was completed in March 2024.</p> <p>The five abattoirs which are the subject of investigation have been inspected and visited several times as part of the investigation process.</p>
3a	Clear strategy for ongoing regular auditing, including unannounced monitoring audits together with industry education	In progress	The first round of unannounced visits was completed in March 2024. The outcome of these will form the basis of an ongoing monitoring and education plan and strategy for the rest of 2024.
3b	Evidence of the installation of 24 hour video surveillance cameras to cover all critical animal welfare points from arrival to exsanguination and death.	In progress	<p>A formal instruction from Tasmania’s Chief Veterinary Officer under section 14 of the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1993</i>, was issued to all abattoir and knackery operators on 20 March 2024. The instruction requires all licensed processing facilities to have installed and in operation a video monitoring system within three months (before the end of June 2024).</p> <p>A notice of variation of accreditation conditions was issued by the Chief Inspector of Primary Produce Safety, under section 17 of the <i>Primary Produce Safety Act 2011</i> on 20 March 2024. This is to ensure that the conditions of Primary Produce Safety Act accreditation corresponded with, and reinforced, the new animal welfare requirements imposed by the Chief Veterinary Officer under the Animal Welfare Act.</p> <p>The <i>Guidelines for Mandatory Video Monitoring in Tasmanian Abattoirs & Knackeries</i> and a <i>Video Monitoring in Processing Operations Legal Requirements Checklist</i> were released and</p>

			<p>issued to all processing facilities, including knackeries The Guidelines were published on the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania's website upon issuances of the legal instruments. The documents can be found at https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/tasmanian-livestock-processing-taskforce.</p> <p>Livestock processors will be required to provide evidence of the installation of a video monitoring system prior to the deadline for compliance. Compliance with the requirement for a video monitoring system will also be assessed during planned announced and unannounced visits by Biosecurity Tasmania.</p>
3b	Commitment to any required legislative changes to make video surveillance compulsory	Completed	<p>The animal welfare directions and condition of accreditation have been issued making it a lawful requirement for video surveillance to be in place by no later than three months (June 2024).</p>
3c	Any other action which the Minister considers necessary to ensure Tasmania's animal welfare standards meet or exceed the highest standards applying across Australia	In progress	<p>The Tasmanian Livestock Processing Taskforce was established by the Government on 14 December 2023.</p> <p>The Taskforce is developing standards and guidelines for all livestock processing. The draft national guidelines for processing livestock, and the Australian Meat Industry guidelines for these facilities are informing the development of Tasmania's guidelines. The guidelines for livestock processing facilities, will include facility design, pre-slaughter care and handling, and emergency killing.</p> <p>The Taskforce is aiming to provide the draft guidelines to the Government by mid-2024. The final draft amalgamated guidelines are planned to be released for public consultation.</p> <p>The guidelines will form the basis of regulations under the Animal Welfare Act and the formal guidelines which are also adopted under that Act.</p> <p>The timing of implementation of regulations will be subject to whether a Regulatory Impact Statement is required.</p>

			The Taskforce is also considering as a priority the training and competency of staff in processing facilities.
4	Funding and resourcing of these initiatives	In progress	<p>Two new animal welfare officers were announced in December 2023 and the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's future includes an additional \$1.2 million for Biosecurity Tasmania over three years.</p> <p>The Government anticipates that the Taskforce will also provide advice on what action is needed to implement the new standards and guidelines, particularly with respect to education for the industry, as well as compliance monitoring and enforcement activities.</p>