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To whom it may concern

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Design of Livestock Loading/Unloading Ramps and Forcing Yards

Livestock SA was formed in 2013 to represent the interests of beef cattle, sheep and goat producers across South Australia, including the pastoral region of South Australia. Currently Livestock SA has over 3,500 members.

Livestock SA welcomes the opportunity to be able to make comment on the draft 'Design of Livestock Loading/Unloading Ramps and Forcing Yards': AS5340.

Our members, regardless of the size of their operations, have a duty of care to any person that use their livestock handling facilities and for all animals handled within these facilities to ensure safety to both while maintaining the highest possible animal welfare standards.

It is noted that in the foreword to this draft that it is indicated that "Australian standards are voluntary."

Livestock SA would be opposed to any moves to make this code mandatory. This must be no more than a guideline that producers can follow when upgrading or building new livestock yards.

Producers are very aware of the "Fit to load" guidelines when sending livestock from their properties. Similarly, this draft could be the basis for "Safe to load" guidelines – safe for the animal, safe for the carrier and safe for the farmer.

Livestock SA is the South Australian member of the Cattle Council of Australia and Sheep Producers Australia. While wishing to endorse their joint submission, we want to strongly emphasise that this document must remain voluntary and is to only be used as a guideline.

Yours sincerely,

Joes Keynes