Queensland livestock industry Action plan – 2014-2017

Common injuries and causes

Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injuries
- Slips, trips and falls
  - Falling from horses
  - Uneven ground
  - Lifting heavy equipment

Vehicle accidents
- Riding motorcycles and quad bikes

Fractures
- Slips, trips, falls and being hit
  - Falling from horses
  - Hit or crushed by livestock
  - Uneven ground

Focus areas
- Intensive livestock handling facilities
- Handling and working livestock
- Quad bikes
- Agricultural chemicals
- Tractors and machinery
- Young and older workers
- Zoonotic diseases
- UV sun radiation
- The beef supply chain

Livestock industry snap shot

Livestock serious injury claim rate (per 1,000 employees)

In 2013-2014, the serious injury claim rate for livestock (41.5) was 45 per cent higher than the agriculture, forestry and fishing serious injury claim rate (28.5) and was more than three times the all industries claim rate (12.6).

Average serious injury claim cost
(for the 2011-2012 financial year)

$17,658 Workers’ compensation costs
$70,632 Other costs
Total costs $88,290

Other costs include business disruption, administrative and legal costs, and other welfare costs.

4 in 10 serious injury claims in the livestock industry were for musculoskeletal injuries.
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| Healthy and safe by design       | • Structures, plant and substances are designed to eliminate or minimise hazards and risks before they are introduced into the workplace.  
• Work, work processes and systems of work are designed and managed to eliminate or minimise hazards and risks.  
• Industry and researchers help identify and solve specific problems.                                                                                                                                                                    | • Work with industry to develop and implement higher order design controls for high risk activities, including:  
  – designing and manufacturing livestock handling equipment  
  – on farm transport of workers.  
• Establish partnerships with research institutions to investigate and influence improved safety outcomes in the livestock industry.  
• Develop and publish case studies on innovative solutions for identified issues in the livestock industry.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Supply chains and networks       | • Supply chain and network participants understand their cumulative impact and actively improve the health and safety of the supply chain.  
• Commercial relationships within supply chains and networks are used to improve work health and safety.  
• Industry leaders champion work health and safety in supply chains and networks.  
• Industry imports plant, materials and equipment that is safe.                                                                                                                                                                       | • Develop an industry partnership program for the livestock supply chain and small businesses.  
• Facilitate safety networks in the livestock industry focusing on young producers, family and corporate enterprises.  
• Establish and support interagency groups for quad bikes and livestock transport.  
• Attend key livestock related field days and events.  
• Increase the number of agricultural businesses involved in Safe Work Month and Safe Work and Return to Work Awards.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Health and safety capabilities    | • Everyone in a workplace has the work health and safety capabilities they require.  
• Those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have the appropriate capabilities.  
• Inspectors and other staff of work health and safety regulators have the work health and safety capabilities to effectively perform their role.  
• Work health and safety skills development is integrated effectively into relevant education and training programs.  
• Industry increasingly uses resources and tools such as the Organisational Systems Benchmarking Tool.                                                                                                                                 | • Undertake intervention and compliance campaigns to assist industry with, for example:  
  – livestock loading and unloading facilities  
  – safe work environments for young and travelling workers  
  – the use of agricultural chemicals  
  – exposure to noise and UV radiation  
  – working in isolation  
  – improved communication between duty holders.  
• Conduct best management practice workshops with industry organisations to promote Serious about farm safety in the beef industry.  
• Encourage good work design for young workers (apprentices and trainees) by engaging with supervisors and managers and education facilities.  
• Produce short films and guidance material to improve health and safety capacity.  
• Increase uptake of the Injury Prevention and Management program in agriculture.                                                                                                                                                        |
| Leadership and culture           | • Effective consultation, cooperation and coordination exists through all levels of the industry.  
• The Safety Leadership at Work program is embedded and leaders drive improved work health and safety.  
• Organisational leaders foster a culture of consultation and collaboration which actively improves work health and safety.  
• Health and safety is given priority in all work processes and decisions.                                                                                                                                                           | • Facilitate effective consultation, cooperation and coordination through all levels of the industry.  
• Hold Safety and Leadership at Work mini-forums.  
• Hold industry webinars.  
• Produce short films about safety leadership and identified issues.  
• Develop partnerships with the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network and other interest groups to facilitate consistent messages through community networks.                                                                                                        |
| Worker health and wellbeing     | • Industry adopts a holistic approach to work health and safety and has increased awareness, knowledge and skills for the prevention and management of musculoskeletal disorder and psychosocial risks.  
• Best practice health promotion principles are supported in workplaces with a focus on chronic disease risks such as smoking, nutrition, physical inactivity, alcohol consumption, obesity and mental wellbeing.  
• Industry's capacity to holistically manage health and safety injuries, and health and wellbeing is increased.  
• WorkCover Queensland is supported in promoting early intervention and injury management.                                                                                                                                            | • Continue to develop initiatives and resources to raise awareness and build industry capacity to manage musculoskeletal disorder, psychosocial and chronic disease risks.  
• Improve integration of health and safety, injury management and health and wellbeing.  
• Increase the number of, and improve support for health and wellbeing programs.  
• Develop resource materials for the control of health and hygiene risks.                                                                                                                                                              |