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PRIMESAFE RULINGS ON ABATTOIRS

Adapted from "Dear Deer" – The Victorian Newsletter

Recently, the business of one of our members was severely affected by the recent PrimeSafe ruling in regards to the slaughter of stock in smaller abattoirs.

PrimeSafe is a Statutory Authority operating under the Meat Industry Act 1993 and Seafood Safety Act 2003 to regulate the safety of meat, poultry and seafood across Victoria.

Recently video footage showed a pig in a Victorian abattoir being killed with a sledgehammer and animals being treated in a most inhumane manner. This was sent to the media and, as a result, the abattoir was immediately shut down by PrimeSafe.

All Victorian abattoirs were then placed under review resulting in the deer license of one abattoir being suspended.

We believe it is because the deer were being shot in the back of a trailer and then taken in for processing.

According to "Australian Standards", animals must be stunned before being killed. As John Delaine pointed out at the Christmas get-together, more clarification is required. The deer killed in SA are done so by a captive bolt. Restraint of the animal is a must but stunning them first could be confused with the Halal requirements.

The whole animal welfare issue surrounding their slaughter will always be contentious.

I believe that all deer farmers are extraordinarily vigilant when it comes to the humane treatment of their livestock. I know that 100% of farmers would place animal welfare pretty close to the top of their list of priorities when running their farm. If we want to produce a good quality product - animal welfare is critical.