

Media Release

14th August, 2015

Grain fed cattle numbers remain high

Cattle numbers in Australian feedlots remained at near record levels, falling less than 1% for the June 2015 quarter to 956,927 head.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President, Don Mackay, stated that "the result reflected the ongoing dry conditions in particularly Queensland (which made it difficult for grass fed cattle operators to sustain numbers) as well as continued strong demand for Australian beef overseas."

"Small declines were experienced in every feedlot state except Queensland and Victoria whilst nationwide feedlot capacity utilisation, at 82%, remained extremely high."

"Strong international demand, as well as some rain across the eastern states, saw feeder and grain fed cattle prices record robust growth during the June quarter."

"Saleyard feeder steer (330-400kg lwt, C2) prices averaged 262¢ during the quarter (up 37% year-on-year), while the eastern states domestic paddock feeder steer indicator (280-350kg lwt) averaged 255¢ over the three months (up 31% year-on-year)."

"Darling Downs grain trended cheaper year-on-year but was dearer than the previous quarter. Barley averaged \$318/tonne during the quarter, back 8% year-on-year, sorghum averaged \$302/tonne, back 4%, while wheat averaged \$325/tonne, back 11%."

"Meat & Livestock Australia's Operations Manager, National Livestock Reporting Service, Damon Holmes, stated that 2014/15 grain fed beef exports were up 15% (to 250,954 tonnes swt) compared to the previous financial year."

"Japan (up 24% to 143,686 tonnes swt) continued to be the dominant export market for grain fed beef for 2014/15 with 57% of exports directed there."

"The second largest grain fed beef export market was South Korea (up 11% to 37,454 tonnes swt) followed by the EU (up 13% to 16,545 tonnes swt), the US (up by 133% to 13,688 tonnes swt) and China (down by 40% to 13,122 tonnes swt).

"Shipments of grain fed beef during the June quarter were the highest on record, with almost 66,000 tonnes swt exported over the three months, up 23% year-on-year and above the 2006 peak of just over 61,000 tonnes swt."

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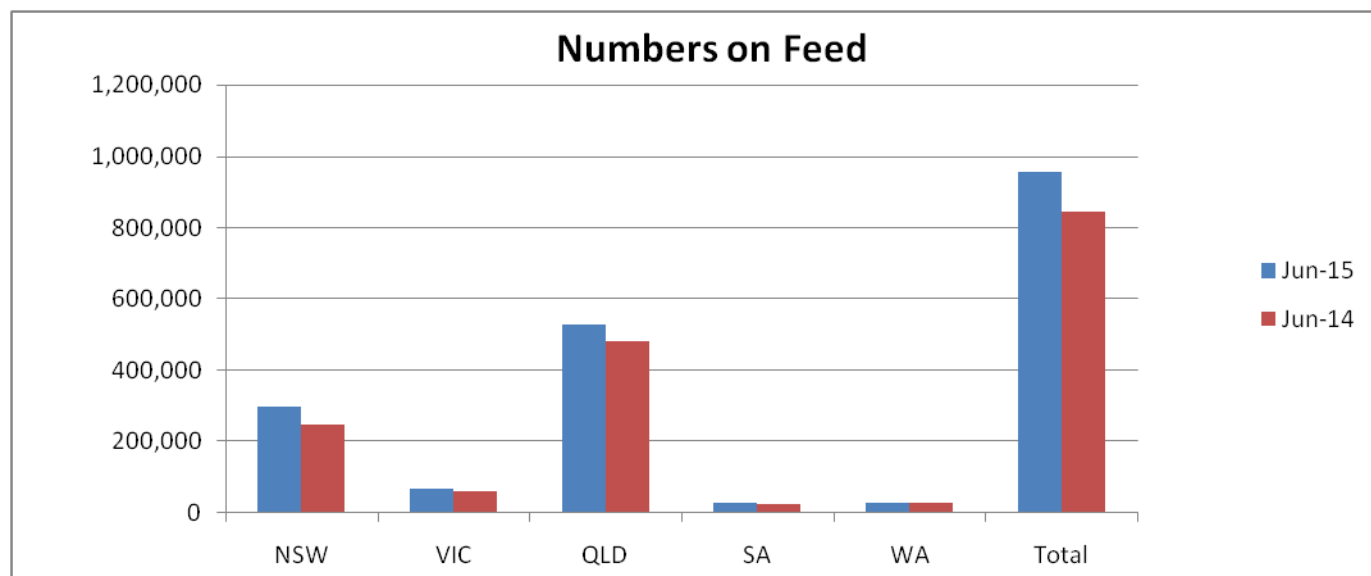
ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Apr – Jun 2015

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	299,505	69,370	528,164	29,466	30,422	956,927
Mar-15	308,274	58,582	519,248	33,108	39,929	959,141
Jun-14	249,134	59,773	481,487	26,001	29,396	845,791

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	390,753	84,793	606,461	35,668	53,752	1,171,426
Mar-15	365,483	71,272	614,786	40,130	55,324	1,146,995
Jun-14	330,503	77,734	589,648	26,951	51,419	1,076,256

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	77%	82%	87%	83%	57%	82%
Mar-15	84%	82%	84%	83%	72%	84%
Jun-14	75%	77%	82%	96%	57%	79%



Total Cattle Turnoff

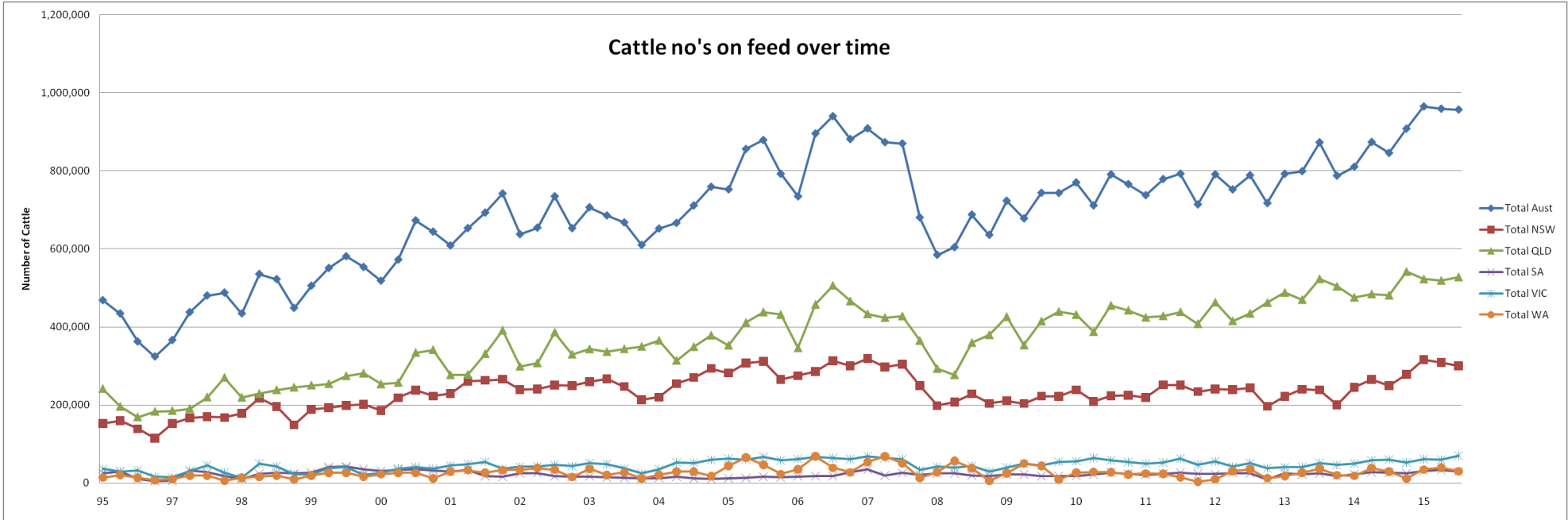
Total Turnoff (year ending)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-14	783,132	183,510	1,577,009	85,406	66,938	2,695,995
Dec-13	675,353	161,378	1,581,591	87,291	117,377	2,622,990
Dec-12	610,687	156,573	1,566,232	104,681	67,077	2,505,250
Dec-11	665,278	220,082	1,402,924	101,822	55,026	2,445,132
Dec-10	634,526	207,305	1,468,631	110,831	112,318	2,533,611
Dec-09	587,444	161,614	1,374,959	77,281	130,601	2,331,899

ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
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Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	201,855	40,291	368,830	17,389	20,193	648,557
Mar-15	214,949	37,489	419,993	32,525	20,255	725,211
Jun-14	181,723	49,302	396,265	24,344	22,308	673,942

State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Jun 15	Capacity Mar 15	Capacity Jun 14	Numbers on Feed Jun 15	Numbers on Feed Mar 15	Numbers on Feed Jun 14
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	4,407	5,442	5,419	3,877	4,251	1,990
500 -1000 head	48,203	24,749	28,619	14,524	15,071	8,085
1000 - 10000 head	106,142	104,179	101,639	91,063	88,601	78,738
over 10000 head	232,001	231,113	194,827	190,041	200,351	160,321
State Total	390,753	365,483	330,503	299,505	308,274	249,134
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	24,959	27,754	23,462	12,056	11,653	9,246
500 -1000 head	37,304	37,736	38,593	13,235	18,770	22,284
1000 - 10000 head	205,946	206,950	205,197	173,344	169,969	150,918
over 10000 head	338,251	342,345	322,397	329,529	318,856	299,039
State Total	606,461	614,786	589,648	528,164	519,248	481,487
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	7,918	7,918	8,234	7,245	7,543	7,840
1000 - 10000 head	36,875	23,354	29,500	28,888	20,193	24,728
over 10000 head	40,000	40,000	40,000	33,238	30,846	27,205
State Total	84,793	71,272	77,734	69,370	58,582	59,773
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	1,652	1,992	1,932	714	1,410	982
500 -1000 head	4,540	4,540	4,540	2,427	2,300	4,540
1000 - 10000 head	29,475	33,599	20,479	26,325	29,398	20,479
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	35,668	40,130	26,951	29,466	33,108	26,001
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	3,295	8,194	4,301	1,976	2,546	2,191
500 -1000 head	12,600	6,930	9,366	9,503	4,495	5,383
1000 - 10000 head	37,857	40,200	37,752	18,943	32,888	21,822
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	53,752	55,324	51,419	30,422	39,929	29,396
Australia						
Less than 500 head	34,313	43,381	35,114	18,623	19,860	14,409
500 -1000 head	110,566	81,874	89,351	46,933	48,179	48,132
1000 - 10000 head	416,295	408,282	394,566	338,563	341,048	296,685
over 10000 head	610,252	613,458	557,224	552,808	550,053	486,565
Total	1,171,426	1,146,995	1,076,256	956,927	959,141	845,791



Source: ALFA / MLA, June 2015, National Accredited Feedlot Survey