

## DETERMINATION NO. 168 OF 1993

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Section 22 of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 provides that the Minister may approve codes of practice relating to animal welfare.

The Australian Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Sheep was prepared by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee together with representatives of the ACT Rural Lessee's Association.

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Code of Practice for adoption in the ACT in November 1993.

The provisions of the Code are detailed in the Attachment.

## Attachment G

The purpose of the Code is intended as a guide for all people who handle and manage sheep. It aims to achieve humane husbandry throughout all types of sheep enterprises.

**Section 1** discusses basic welfare needs of sheep and the responsibilities of persons handling the animals. Included within this Section are the water requirements of sheep with emphasis on the quality of water.

**Section 2** is concerned with drought and implementing strategies for drought management. The precautions to be taken against drought and/or seasonal feed shortages are outlined.

**Section 3** details the need to minimise the effects of weather that produce either cold stress or heat stress in sheep.

**Section 4** discusses the actions required to protect a flock from disease and what steps should be followed if the sheep become sick, injured or diseased.

**Section 5** outlines the importance of well designed sheep handling facilities and their implications for the welfare of the sheep.

**Section 6** explains the requirements of regular supervision and inspection of sheep.

**Section 7** is concerned with the agistment of sheep and the responsibility of the owner of the land.

**Section 8** discusses general husbandry and management practices required for sheep farming enterprises. This Section includes information on handling and management of stock, shearing, dipping, paring of feet, horn trimming, lambing and orphan lambs.

**Section 9** discusses husbandry practices of a surgical nature with emphasis on hygiene and reduction of stress and pain with minimal restraint applied to the animal. Areas of surgical husbandry which are discussed are tail docking, castration, mules operation, permanent identifications, pizzle dropping and teeth grinding/trimming.

**Section 10** is concerned with the humane destruction of stock. Outlined within this Section is the use of the firearm, the captive-bolt pistol or anaesthetic overdose by a veterinarian.

Appendices are attached outlining the recommended use and direction for administering euthanasia by firearm or captive bolt pistol.