



20<sup>th</sup> August, 2013

# Media Release

## Grain fed cattle numbers rise 9%

Results from the latest ALFA/ MLA quarterly feedlot survey showed a 9% rise in cattle numbers on feed to 873,000 head.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President Don Mackay commented that the June quarter survey outcome was predominantly the result of a decline in feeder cattle prices as grass fed producers in several states destocked due to drier than average seasonal conditions".

"Feeder cattle prices started the June quarter with a continuation of the easing from the March quarter, before bottoming out in mid-May, and then recovering through June".

"The yearling steer (C2 330-400 kg lwt) category averaged 167¢/kg lwt for the quarter, back 5% from the March quarter and 16% year-on-year".

"The highest numerical quarterly increase in cattle numbers on feed was experienced in Queensland (11%) as dry conditions in the Northern Territory and the Western parts of the state led to higher turnoff figures".

"However, increases were also felt in Victoria (26%), South Australia (8%) and WA (39%) due to cheaper feeder cattle and/ or grain (particularly when compared to the northern states)".

"NSW lot feeders were unable to take advantage of cheaper cattle from Queensland and the Northern territory due mainly to transport costs".

"Rises in feed grain prices dampened further increases in cattle numbers on feed (particularly during the latter part of the quarter) with Darling Downs barley (\$298/tonne), sorghum (\$283/tonne) and wheat (\$297/tonne) year-on-year prices up 49%, 57% and 39% respectively".

Meat & Livestock Australia's Manager for Market Information and Analysis, Tim McRae stated that "grain fed exports for the quarter were up 8% compared to the corresponding period last year".

"Total grain fed exports for 2012/13 were 198,158 tonnes swt, up 2% year-on-year, and 5% on the five-year average with the declines into Japan (6%) and Korea (1%) more than offset by significant increases to the EU and China (82% and 429% respectively).

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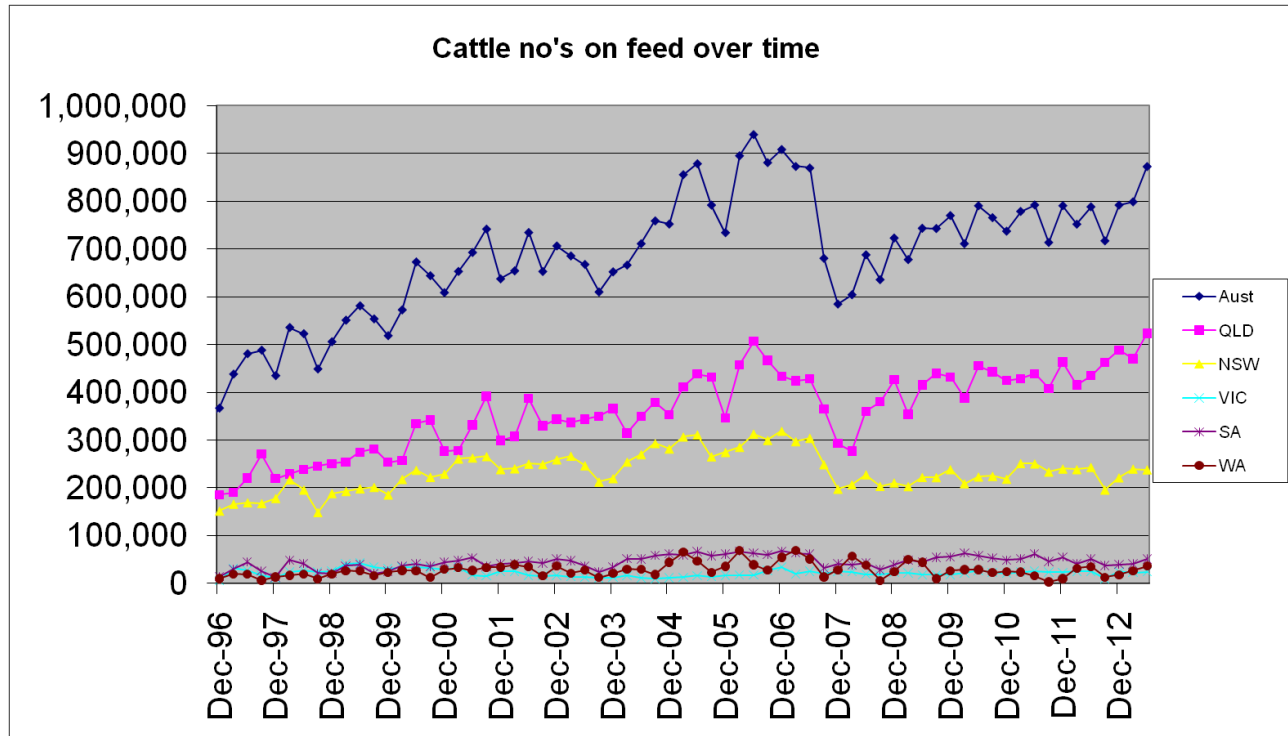
**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY**  
**Apr – Jun 2013**

**Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation**

<b>Numbers on Feed</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jun-13	238,186	50,907	523,403	24,140	36,356	<b>872,992</b>
Mar-13	239,846	40,373	470,212	22,360	26,243	<b>799,034</b>
Jun-12	243,261	51,077	434,862	24,477	34,948	<b>788,625</b>

<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jun-13	334,543	74,229	632,655	31,524	118,901	<b>1,191,852</b>
Mar-13	331,182	75,356	662,856	30,195	89,226	<b>1,188,815</b>
Jun-12	417,412	93,195	613,780	32,940	109,383	<b>1,266,710</b>

<b>Utilisation</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jun-13	71%	69%	83%	77%	31%	<b>73%</b>
Mar-13	72%	54%	71%	74%	29%	<b>67%</b>
Jun-12	58%	55%	71%	74%	32%	<b>62%</b>



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**State Breakdown by Feedlot Size**

	Capacity Jun 13	Capacity Mar 13	Capacity Jun 12	Numbers on Feed Jun 13	Numbers on Feed Mar 13	Numbers on Feed Jun 12
<b>New South Wales</b>						
Less than 500 head	6,409	7,006	7,409	2,258	895	5,034
500 -1000 head	17,176	17,844	20,354	5,038	5,876	2,740
1000 - 10000 head	93,070	90,029	106,076	59,780	62,999	53,593
over 10000 head	217,888	216,303	283,573	171,110	170,076	181,894
<i>State Total</i>	<i>334,543</i>	<i>331,182</i>	<i>417,412</i>	<i>238,186</i>	<i>239,846</i>	<i>243,261</i>
<b>Queensland</b>						
Less than 500 head	46,484	39,113	36,118	11,702	5,937	12,103
500 -1000 head	43,875	45,910	45,775	23,517	12,431	16,981
1000 - 10000 head*	522,296	273,629	223,972	488,184	217,801	163,672
over 10000 head*	20,000	304,204	307,915	0	234,043	242,106
<i>State Total</i>	<i>632,655</i>	<i>662,856</i>	<i>613,780</i>	<i>523,403</i>	<i>470,212</i>	<i>434,862</i>
<b>Victoria</b>						
Less than 500 head	4,620	4,412	7,696	5,491	4,236	5,826
500 -1000 head	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
1000 - 10000 head*	68,609	26,499	28,499	45,416	12,073	15,986
over 10000 head*	0	43,445	56,000	0	24,064	29,265
<i>State Total</i>	<i>74,229</i>	<i>75,356</i>	<i>93,195</i>	<i>50,907</i>	<i>40,373</i>	<i>51,077</i>
<b>South Australia</b>						
Less than 500 head	1,994	1,918	3,498	681	1,209	1,064
500 -1000 head	6,368	6,312	6,368	840	2,453	2,915
1000 - 10000 head	23,162	21,965	23,074	22,619	18,698	20,498
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	<i>31,524</i>	<i>30,195</i>	<i>32,940</i>	<i>24,140</i>	<i>22,360</i>	<i>24,477</i>
<b>Western Australia</b>						
Less than 500 head	15,214	13,488	13,623	703	2,526	4,260
500 -1000 head	12,850	12,800	15,160	2,219	2,400	4,068
1000 - 10000 head	90,837	62,938	80,600	33,434	21,317	26,620
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	<i>118,901</i>	<i>89,226</i>	<i>109,383</i>	<i>36,356</i>	<i>26,243</i>	<i>34,948</i>
<b>Australia</b>						
Less than 500 head	74,721	65,937	68,344	20,835	14,803	28,287
500 -1000 head	81,269	83,866	88,657	31,614	23,160	26,704
1000 - 10000 head	797,974	475,060	462,221	649,433	332,888	280,369
over 10000 head	237,888	563,952	647,488	171,110	428,183	453,265
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,191,852</i>	<i>1,188,815</i>	<i>1,266,710</i>	<i>872,992</i>	<i>799,034</i>	<i>788,625</i>

\*Categories with an asterisk have been amalgamated to statistically enable the sample size to more accurately reflect the actual population size.

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**Total Cattle Turnoff**

<i>Total Turnoff (year ending)</i>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dec-12	610687	156573	1566232	104681	67077	2505250
Dec-11	665278	220082	1402924	101822	55026	2445132
Dec-10	634526	207305	1468631	110831	112318	2533611
Dec-09	587444	161614	1374959	77281	130601	2331899
Dec-08	570099	150271	1212738	76910	124485	2134503
Dec-07	717243	197930	1261965	79036	148021	2404195

<i>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</i>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jun-13	180832	39535	371321	27872	54904	<b>674464</b>
Mar-13	173756	31016	365008	18885	26697	<b>615362</b>
Jun-12	161974	59766	359425	29882	33229	<b>644276</b>

