

Media Release

5th September, 2014

Grain fed cattle remain steady

Cattle numbers in Australian feedlots have remained steady in the June quarter, declining 3% to 846,000.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) Vice President, Tess Herbert, stated that, "the result reflected the ongoing dry conditions which made it difficult for grass fed cattle operators to sustain numbers as well as heightened demand for Australian beef overseas."

"The slight decline in overall cattle numbers on feed compared to the previous quarter was largely driven by a 24% decline in Western Australia along with higher grain, fodder and feeder cattle prices in NSW and south east Queensland."

"Feed grain prices on the Darling Downs were up 13% compared to the previous quarter, fodder prices up 18% whilst yearling steers and heifers were up by 14 and 11% respectively."

"The improved turnoff result for the quarter (5%) was particularly driven by the influx of cheaper drought affected cattle more suited to the shorter fed domestic trade however the overall feedlot capacity utilisation result of 79% continued to be strong compared to historical levels."

Meat & Livestock Australia's Senior Market Analyst, Ben Thomas, stated that the strong demand for Australian beef led to a 10% rise in grain fed beef exports for the 2013/14 year.

Importantly, the modest 4% year-on-year decline in Japan was more than offset by a 6% increase in South Korea (to 33,721 tonnes swt), 61% to the US (to 5,865 tonnes swt), greater than 200% to China (to 21,833 tonnes swt), 55% to the Middle East (to 10,944 tonnes swt) and 68% to the European Union (to 14,663 tonnes swt).

"The onset of rain in some areas since the end of the June quarter and the ongoing strong demand for Australian beef augers well for the feedlot sector into the intermediate future", Mrs Herbert concluded.

For further information:

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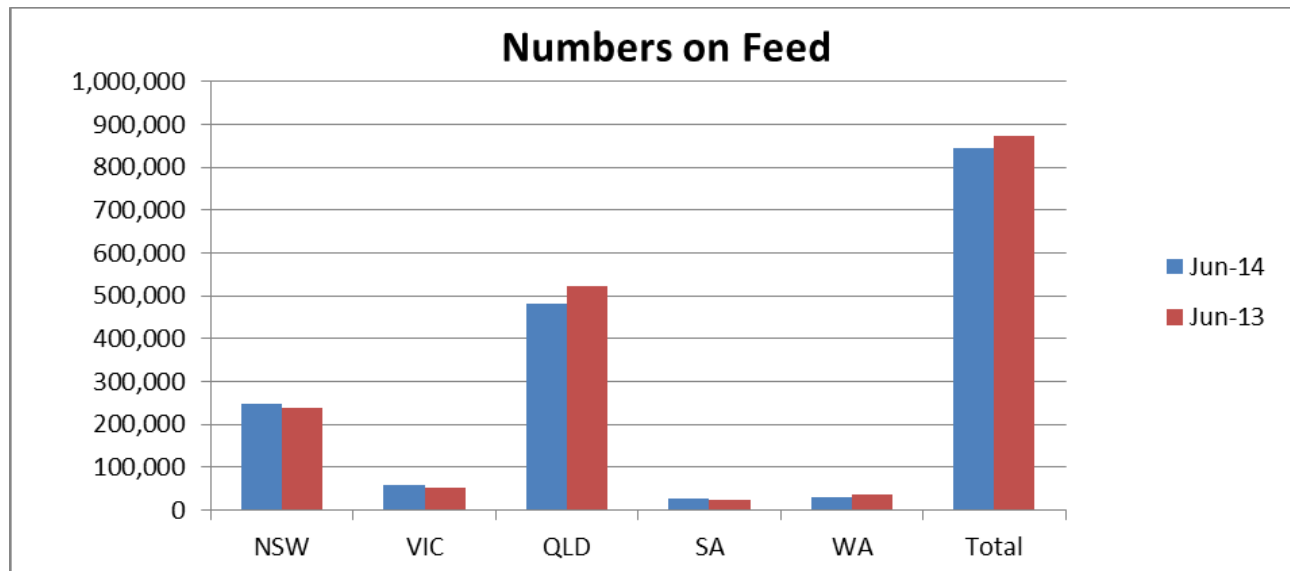
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Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

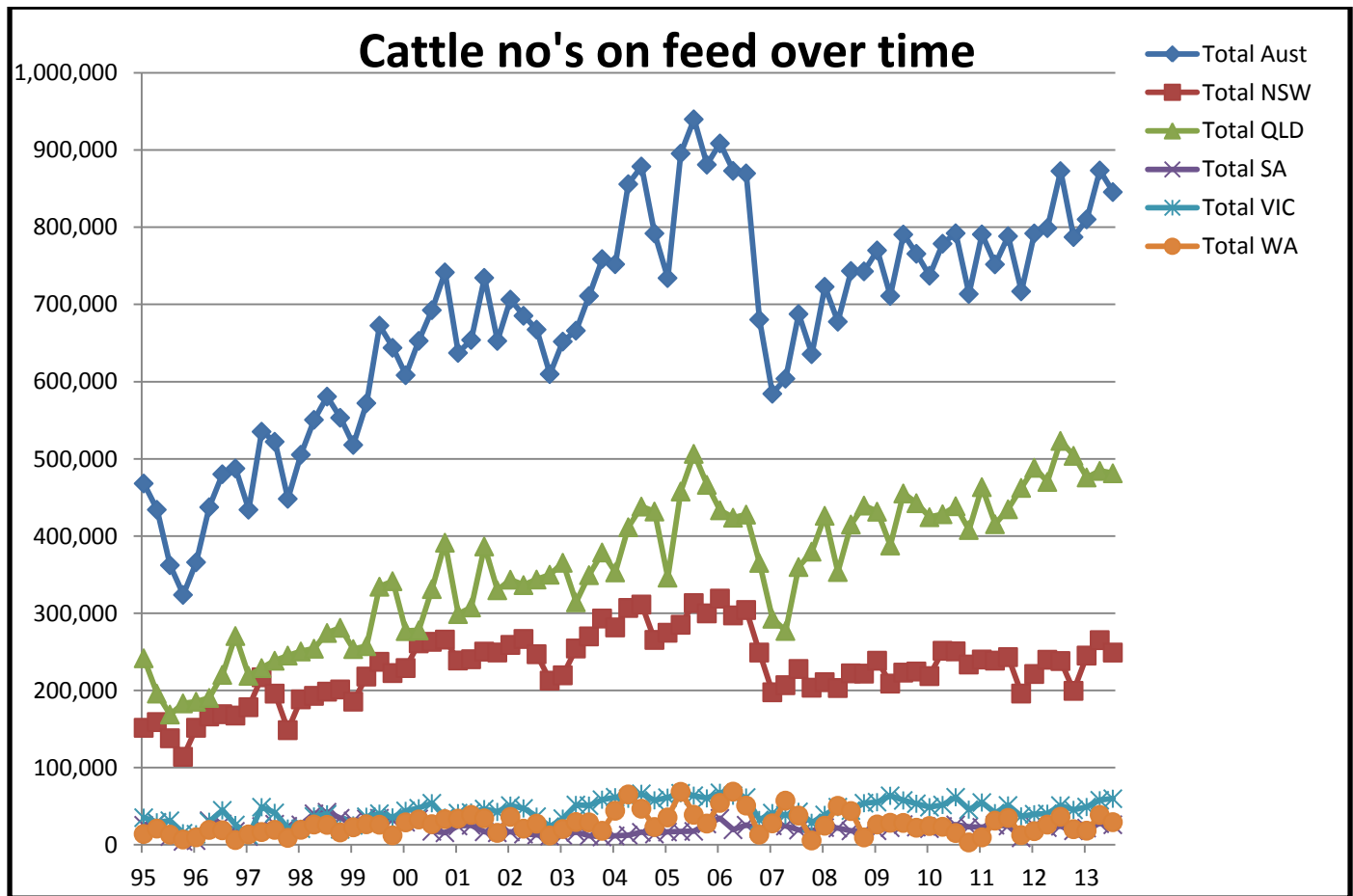
Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-14	249,134	59,773	481,487	26,001	29,396	845,791
Mar-14	265,227	57,804	484,534	27,398	38,821	873,783
Jun-13	238,186	50,907	523,403	24,140	36,356	872,992

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-14	330,503	77,734	589,648	26,951	51,419	1,076,256
Mar-14	358,242	76,325	597,880	26,499	48,728	1,107,674
Jun-13	334,543	74,229	714,894	31,524	118,901	1,274,091

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-14	75%	77%	82%	96%	57%	79%
Mar-14	74%	76%	81%	103%	80%	79%
Jun-13	71%	69%	73%	77%	31%	69%



ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Mar-June 2014



Total Cattle Turnoff

Total Turnoff (year ending)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
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
Dec-08	570,099	150,271	1,212,738	76,910	124,485	2,134,503

Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-14	181,723	49,302	396,265	24,344	22,308	673,942
Mar-14	192,761	36,941	377,690	18,081	16,432	641,905
Jun-13	180,832	39,535	380,181	27,872	54,904	683,324

ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Mar-June 2014

State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Jun 14	Capacity Mar 14	Capacity Jun 13	Numbers on Feed Jun 14	Numbers on Feed Mar 14	Numbers on Feed Jun 13
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	5,419	5,189	6,409	1,990	3,715	2,258
500 -1000 head	28,619	24,404	17,176	8,085	14,120	5,038
1000 - 10000 head	101,639	112,076	93,070	78,738	84,433	59,780
over 10000 head	194,827	216,573	217,888	160,321	162,959	171,110
State Total	330,503	358,242	334,543	249,134	265,227	238,186
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	23,462	27,147	46,484	9,246	8,859	11,702
500 -1000 head	38,593	37,089	43,875	22,284	21,734	23,517
1000 - 10000 head	205,197	225,632	211,019	150,918	154,789	182,274
over 10000 head	322,397	308,012	413,516	299,039	299,152	305,910
State Total	589,648	597,880	714,894	481,487	484,534	523,403
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	0	0	4,620	0	0	5,491
500 -1000 head	8,234	7,773	1,000	7,840	9,752	0
1000 - 10000 head	29,500	28,552	68,609	24,728	18,809	45,416
over 10000 head	40,000	40,000	0	27,205	29,243	0
State Total	77,734	76,325	74,229	59,773	57,804	50,907
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	1,932	1,530	1,994	982	1,348	681
500 -1000 head	4,540	4,540	6,368	4,540	2,861	840
1000 - 10000 head	20,479	20,429	23,162	20,479	23,188	22,619
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	26,951	26,499	31,524	26,001	27,398	24,140
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	4,301	3,928	15,214	2,191	7,802	703
500 -1000 head	9,366	7,300	12,850	5,383	3,119	2,219
1000 - 10000 head	37,752	37,500	90,837	21,822	27,900	33,434
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	51,419	48,728	118,901	29,396	38,821	36,356
Australia						
Less than 500 head	35,114	37,794	74,721	14,409	21,724	20,835
500 -1000 head	89,351	81,106	81,269	48,132	51,587	31,614
1000 - 10000 head	394,566	424,189	486,697	296,685	309,119	343,523
over 10000 head	557,224	564,585	631,404	486,565	491,354	477,020
Total	1,076,256	1,107,674	1,274,091	845,791	873,783	872,992