



Saleyards
Australia

The YARD REPORT

2026 EDITION



www.saleyardsaustralia.com.au

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Board Member



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Board Member



Gerald Leach
Board Member

Saleyards Australia Staff

Amy Perfrement
Executive Officer

Kylie Svensson
Administration &
Membership Officer



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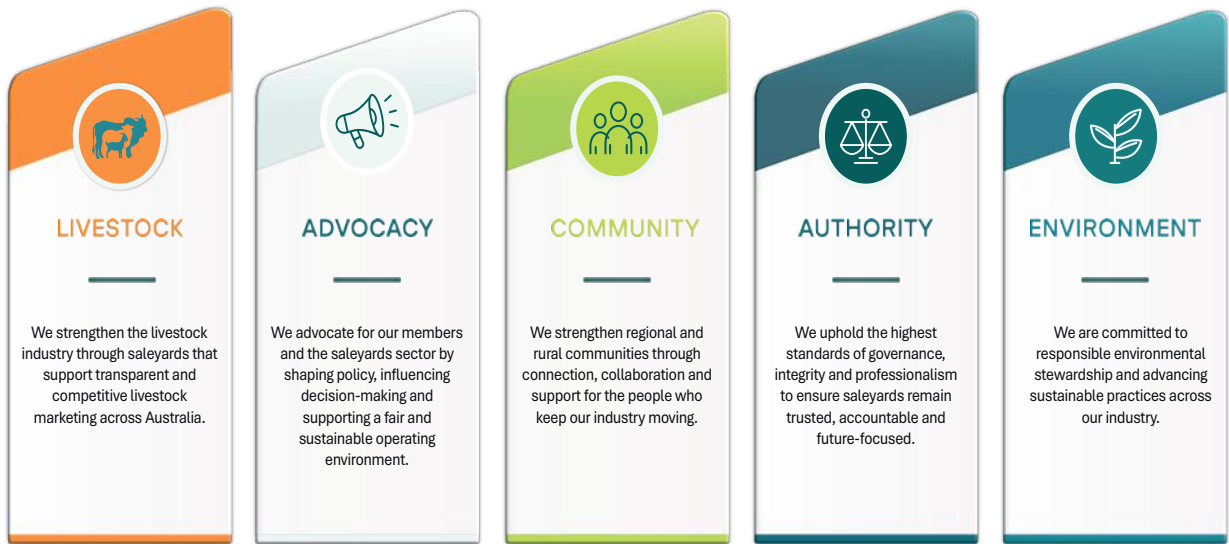
Our strength is in our people, our communities and our commitment to a united livestock marketing industry.



Saleyards
Australia

OUR FIVE PILLARS

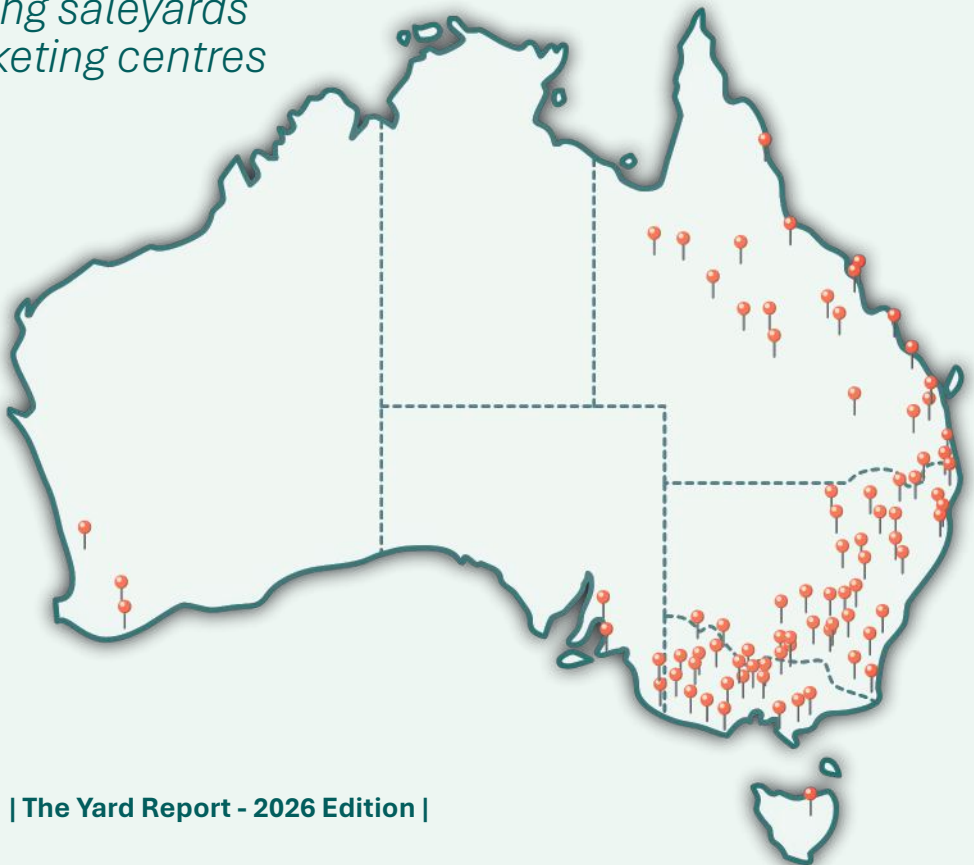
Strong foundations. Sustainable future



REPRESENTING TODAY. BUILDING TOMORROW.

A NATIONAL INDUSTRY NETWORK

Proudly representing saleyards and livestock marketing centres across Australia.



From the President

It is my pleasure to present this report highlighting a year of significant progress, innovation, and continued leadership across the saleyards sector.

A major milestone has been the advancement of the Quality Assurance (QA) Program through the LPA joint venture, reinforcing our shared commitment to best practice standards and integrity across the livestock supply chain. This initiative represents a critical step in ensuring transparency, accountability, and confidence for producers, livestock agents, buyers, and consumers alike.



During the year, we were proud to launch the Shared Responsibility Campaign, an important initiative that underscores the essential role every participant plays in maintaining high standards throughout the livestock supply chain. This campaign is a reminder that animal welfare, safety and operational excellence are collective responsibilities.

We were also delighted to introduce the inaugural Women in Saleyards Scholarship, a program designed to support and encourage greater female participation and leadership within our industry. Congratulations to Maddy Wightman from Emerald, who was announced as the first recipient of this important scholarship.

Further supporting innovation and industry development, we launched the Livestock Saleyards Research and Innovation (LSRI) Grant Program, with submissions open until 30 June 2026. This program is expected to drive new ideas, improvements, and research outcomes that will benefit the entire sector.

One of the standout events of the year was the successful delivery of the 2025 National Saleyards Conference in Wagga Wagga. The conference brought together industry leaders, stakeholders, and practitioners to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and explore future opportunities for the sector. Recognition must go to Amy and Kylie for the tireless efforts in realising such a successful event, thank you.

Education and training have remained a key priority. Over just 12 months, we delivered 10 Animal Welfare for Saleyards training workshops and 3 Livestock Euthanasia Training workshops, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills required to uphold the highest standards of animal care.

Throughout the year, we have continued to strengthen the profile of Saleyards Australia through enhanced member communication, industry engagement, strategic partnerships, and an expanded digital presence. These efforts ensure we remain a strong and unified voice for the sector.

Finally, it is important to recognise excellence within our industry. We proudly acknowledge the 2025 award winners, whose contributions exemplify leadership and dedication:

- Industry Advocate Award – Mark Buttenshaw
- Spirit of the Saleyards Award – Muchea Livestock Centre

In closing, I thank our members, partners, and stakeholders for their continued support and commitment. Together we are building a resilient, progressive, and sustainable future for saleyards across Australia.

Regards
Paul Martin | President

2025 INDUSTRY AWARDS

In 2025, Saleyards Australia recognised individuals and facilities making an outstanding contribution to the saleyards sector through leadership, advocacy and commitment to industry.

The 2025 award recipients were acknowledged at the Annual Conference Dinner, celebrating the people that help strengthen the future of Australia's saleyards and livestock markets.



Spirit of the Saleyards Award

Mark Buttenshaw

This award celebrates individuals who embody the true spirit of Australia's saleyards - recognising those whose values, commitment and quiet strength reflect the very heart of our industry. These are the people who go the extra mile, lead with integrity and uplift their teams and communities without seeking the spotlight.

Industry Advocate Award

Muchea Livestock Centre

This award recognises the outstanding efforts of an individual facility that actively champions the saleyards sector through meaningful engagement with stakeholders and the local community.

It is an acknowledgement of contributions that elevate the profile, reputation, and long-term sustainability of saleyards across Australia.



Recognising the people and facilities helping drive the future of Australia's saleyards industry.

FAST FACTS

Our Year in Numbers

A trusted national network. Connecting producers, buyers and communities across Australia.

ESTIMATED LIVESTOCK VALUE PROCESSED THROUGH MEMBER FACILITIES

\$8.15 **BILLION**

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES



OUR INDUSTRY IMPACT



83

**ACTIVE MEMBER
FACILITIES**

A strong National network representing saleyards and livestock markets.



4.18_M

CATTLE

Processed through member facilities.



15.9_M

SHEEP

Processed through member facilities.



844,697

TRANSIT CATTLE

Processed through member facilities.



6

**STATES &
TERRITORIES
REPRESENTED**

A truly National presence from coast to coast.



70+

**COUNCIL & PRIVATE
FACILITIES**

Diverse ownership strengthening local communities.



13

**TRAINING
FACILITATED**

Supporting animal welfare and best-practice outcomes across Australia.



150+

**INDUSTRY
PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED**

Across Animal Welfare and Livestock Euthanasia programs.



Saleyards and livestock markets are critical infrastructure driving value, supporting communities and strengthening Australia's livestock industry.

From the Executive Officer

The year has seen Saleyards Australia continue to grow in advocacy, industry engagement, training delivery and national representation.

A highlight of the year was attending my first National Conference, which brought together industry representatives from across the country for a highly engaging and informative program. The strong attendance and positive feedback reinforced the value of creating opportunities for collaboration, discussion and the sharing of ideas across the saleyards sector.



Events like this require a significant amount of planning and preparation and rely heavily on the support of sponsors and the attendees who commit both time and money to participate. Ensuring the conference delivers a valuable and worthwhile experience for those attending is not overlooked, and I would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

Throughout the reporting period, Saleyards Australia continued to advocate for the important role saleyards play within Australia's livestock supply chain and regional communities. Strong livestock markets and consistent throughput numbers across many selling centres demonstrated ongoing producer confidence in saleyards as a trusted, transparent and competitive method of livestock marketing.

Representation across national industry forums and working groups remained an ongoing priority throughout the year. Saleyards Australia continued contributing to discussions surrounding traceability, compliance, biosecurity and future industry standards to ensure the practical realities of saleyard operations are recognised within broader industry decision-making processes.

One of the significant developments arising from the 2025 Conference was industry support for the development of a new Quality Assurance framework for saleyards. This project continues to progress in partnership with Integrity Systems Company (ISC), with work underway through the Steering Committee and consultation process to develop a practical and industry-aligned framework for the sector.

Biosecurity preparedness and animal welfare remained ongoing priorities. Saleyards Australia delivered Animal Welfare for Saleyards and Livestock Euthanasia Training programs across multiple states, with more than 140 participants completing training throughout the year. The strong participation and engagement in these programs reflect the sector's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and best practice outcomes.

Seasonal conditions throughout the year again highlighted the resilience and importance of the saleyards sector. During periods of fire and flooding experienced in parts of the country, saleyards and their operators continued supporting producers and local communities, demonstrating the important role facilities play during difficult conditions.

As we move into another year, there remains considerable opportunity for Saleyards Australia to continue building a strong, connected and proactive national industry peak body. I look forward to continuing to work alongside members, stakeholders and industry partners throughout the year ahead.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the board of directors, members, industry stakeholders and supporters for their continued commitment to the organisation. I would also particularly like to acknowledge Kylie Svensson for her tireless work behind the scenes throughout the year. Her professionalism, organisation and dedication continue to make an enormous contribution to the operational needs of Saleyards Australia.

Kind regards

Amy Perfrement | Executive Officer

Investing in future leaders

WOMEN IN SALEYARDS SCHOLARSHIP

In 2025, Saleyards Australia launched the inaugural Women in Saleyards Scholarship to support leadership development and create opportunities for women working across Australia's saleyard sector.

The scholarship provides recipients with access to professional development, industry networking and national leadership experiences while recognising the important contribution women make across livestock marketing and saleyard operations.



Inaugural Recipient

Emerald Saleyards Senior Saleyards Officer Maddy Wightman was named the inaugural scholarship recipient following a highly competitive national application process. Judges recognised Maddy's strong commitment to compliance, governance, animal welfare and operational excellence, along with her passion for strengthening the future of the saleyard industry.

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I'm returning to my role with fresh perspective, renewed ambition and a strong network of women shaping the future of our industry.

About Maddy

In her role at Emerald Saleyards, Maddy has led initiatives focused on NSQA accreditation, biosecurity review and RiskPass implementation, while continuing to advocate for continuous improvement and strong operational standards across the supply chain.

Maddy is passionate about animal welfare and operational integrity and sees a future in leadership within the cattle industry.

This scholarship is an important step in supporting her goal to grow her technical knowledge, build leadership capability and make a meaningful contribution to the saleyard sector.

Recognising the heart of our saleyards

BEST SALEYARD CANTEEN IN AUSTRALIA

In 2026, Saleyards Australia launched the inaugural Best Saleyard Canteen in Australia competition, recognising the important role saleyard canteens play within the livestock industry and regional communities.



The public vote attracted more than

1,600 VOTES

from across Australia, highlighting the strong connection many people have with their local saleyard canteen.



Far more than just a meal or coffee stop, saleyard canteens are often considered the heart of the yards - bringing people together, supporting local communities and creating a welcoming space throughout long sale days.



Following the national public vote, **The Mustering Yard Cafe** at the **Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange** was announced the 2026 winner.

Led by Lyn and her dedicated team, the cafe was recognised for its welcoming atmosphere, homemade food, fresh baking and outstanding community spirit!

Voters praised the team's friendly service, hearty meals and the important role the canteen plays in creating connection on sale day.

This initiative celebrated the hardworking canteen teams across Australia who keep the industry fuelled while helping create connection and community across the nation's saleyards.



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The canteen is often the heart and soul of the sale day.

A View from the Yards | A board member perspective

David Wallis | Mount Gambier & District Stock Saleyard

The State of Saleyards in Australia

My involvement in the saleyard industry began approximately six years ago, during a period when several nearby saleyards considered strong competitors closed within a relatively short time of one another. The closures generated significant backlash from local communities and users of the yards, with many questioning the employment and economic impact their loss would have on regional communities.

Both facilities cited similar reasons for closure, including declining throughput and increasing operating costs.

Stock agents, producers and buyers all want saleyards to survive, however support can often be selective, with the understandable reasoning that they must do what is best for the producer.

While I understand this position, I often ask - if saleyards no longer existed, where would competition for livestock come from? If a producer believes a direct buyer's offer is too low, where would they turn?

There is undoubtedly a balancing act between supporting saleyards and ensuring vendor satisfaction through alternative selling options.

Maintaining saleyards as an attractive option for vendors can also be costly. Infrastructure improvements, compliance requirements, maintenance and maintaining best-practice standards all come at a price, with those costs ultimately reflected in user fees.

What I have found throughout my time in the industry is that stock agents can be both your greatest ally and your greatest critic - sometimes all in the same day. Many successful agents have strong personalities, which is often part of what makes them effective. However, when passionate voices are brought together, achieving outcomes that benefit everyone can sometimes be challenging.

Annual audits, compliance requirements, EPA licensing obligations and ongoing upgrades are all essential parts of operating a modern saleyard and contribute to increasing costs.

While some of these realities may sound negative, working within the saleyard industry has also been incredibly rewarding. Over the years I have met many hardworking, like-minded people who are deeply passionate about supporting both the livestock industry and the future of saleyards.

A saleyard is often like a small village. For many attendees, market day provides an important opportunity for social connection in what can otherwise be an isolating industry. It is a place where people catch up, discuss the market, share stories, compare footy tips and sometimes even solve the world's problems.

Looking ahead, I believe saleyards must continue to innovate, strive for best practice and improve infrastructure as budgets allow. It is also important that saleyards maintain a seat at the table when industry issues are discussed at both state and federal levels.

Saleyards remain an important national asset for the movement and marketing of livestock, and it is essential they continue to form part of the bigger picture for the Australian livestock industry.



Saleyards
Australia

**SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S
LIVESTOCK MARKETS,
COMMUNITIES
AND FUTURE**

Strong today. Building tomorrow.

www.saleyardsaustralia.com.au