



Media Release

10th November, 2014

Grain fed cattle numbers rise

Cattle numbers in Australian feedlots increased by 7% in the September quarter to 908,000.

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

The outcome was the highest cattle numbers on feed since December 2006 and only the third time in the history of the feedlot industry that the 900,000 figure has been exceeded. Utilisation of feedlot capacity at 80% was also the highest since the same 2006 period.

"The increase in feedlot cattle numbers was driven by Queensland and NSW, hardly surprising given the lack of rain in these states along with their respective importance to overall industry capacity."

Darling Downs wheat averaged \$320/tonne over the quarter, up 4% year-on-year and down 12% on the June quarter, while Darling Downs sorghum eased 6% year-on-year and 9% on the June quarter, at \$284/tonne.

Yearling steers (330-400kg) trended dearer for the quarter, up 8% year-on-year, averaging 193¢/kg lwt nationally.

Strong export demand was reflected in grain fed beef export figures with an increase to 59,581 tonnes swt, up 11% on the June quarter and 9% year-on-year, taking the year-to-September volume to 165,663 tonnes swt, up 10% on the same period last year.

Meat & Livestock Australia's Manager, Market Information and NLRS, Ben Thomas, stated that quarterly grainfed beef exports to Japan and Korea increased 16% and 25% from the corresponding period last year, at 34,504 and 9,693 tonnes swt respectively.

Whilst September quarter grain fed beef exports to China declined 72% year-on-year to 1,635 tonnes swt, exports to the EU and US increased 31% and 143% year-on-year to 4,507 and 2,838 tonnes swt, with year-to-September volumes to the US up 144%, at 6,571 tonnes swt.

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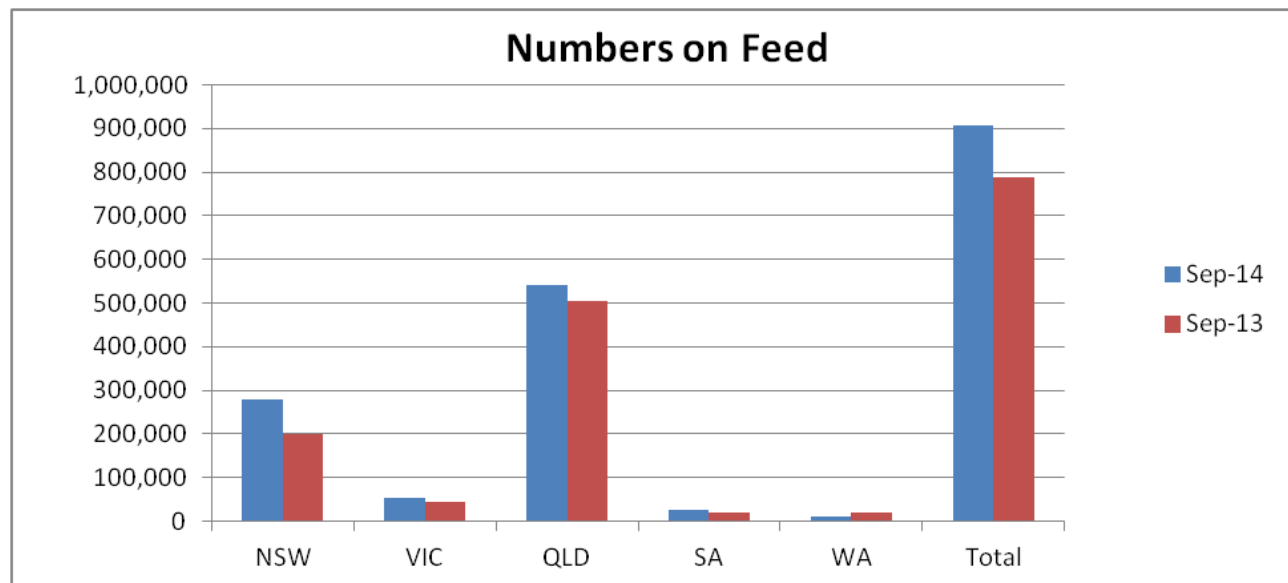
**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul – Sep 2014**

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

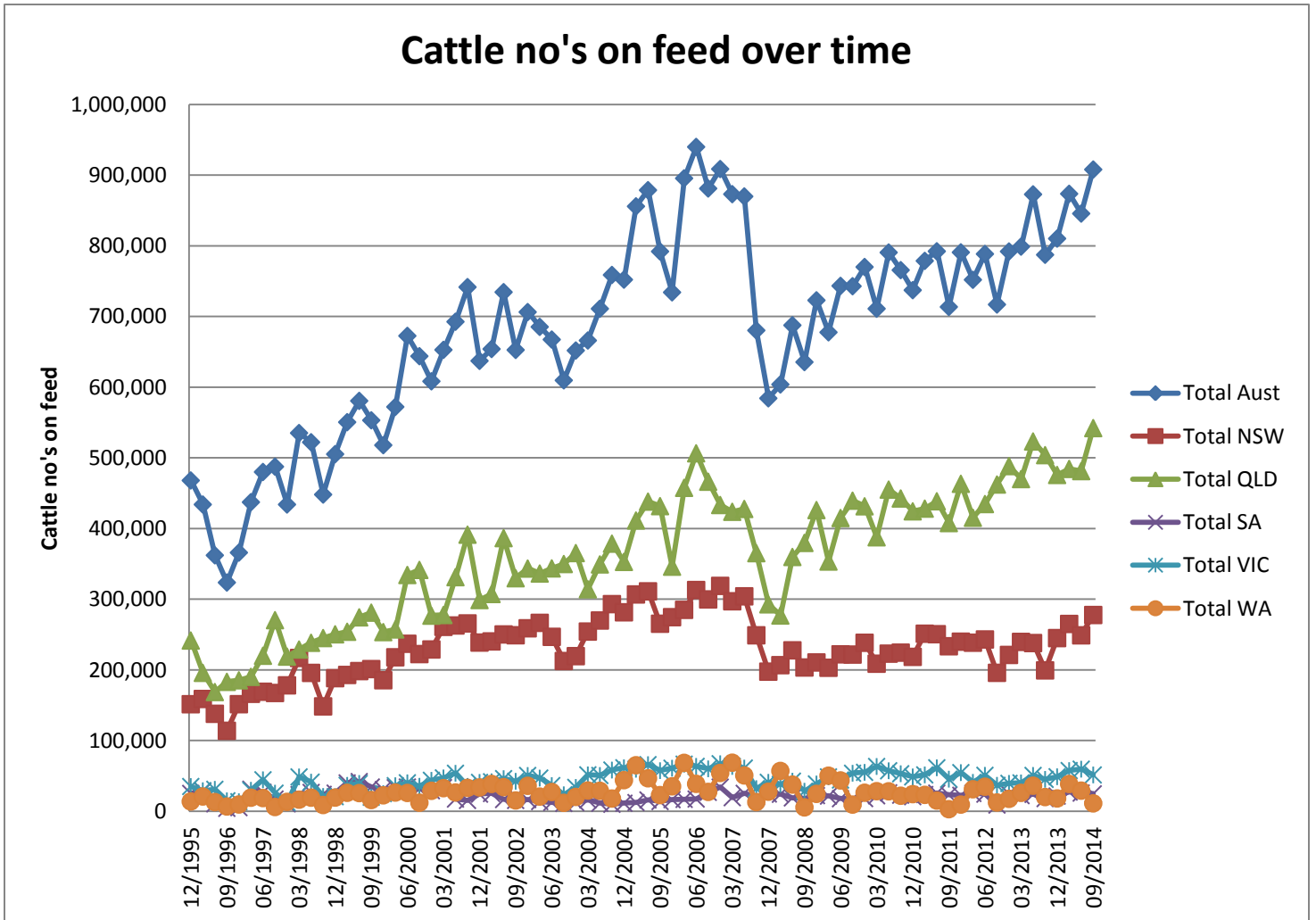
Numbers on Feed	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	Total
Sep-14	277,874	51,612	542,316	24,893	11,423	908,118
Jun-14	249,134	59,773	481,487	26,001	29,396	845,791
Sep-13	199,555	45,344	504,078	18,198	20,312	787,487

Capacity	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	Total
Sep-14	377,496	69,898	624,045	24,893	38,128	1,134,460
Jun-14	330,503	77,734	589,648	26,951	51,419	1,076,256
Sep-13	379,226	83,766	589,227	30,741	79,244	1,162,204

Utilisation	<i>NSW</i>	<i>VIC</i>	<i>QLD</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	Total
Sep-14	74%	74%	87%	100%	30%	80%
Jun-14	75%	77%	82%	96%	57%	79%
Sep-13	53%	54%	86%	59%	26%	68%



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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
Sep-14	201,855	40,291	368,830	17,389	20,193	648,557
Jun-14	181,723	49,302	396,265	24,344	22,308	673,942
Sep-13	174,237	56,737	424,699	22,265	29,893	707,831

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State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Sep 14	Capacity Jun 14	Capacity Sep 13	Numbers on Feed Sep 14	Numbers on Feed Jun 14	Numbers on Feed Sep 13
<i>New South Wales</i>						
Less than 500 head	7,784	5,419	4,999	5,189	1,990	599
500 -1000 head	24,811	28,619	16,117	8,706	8,085	3,626
1000 - 10000 head	112,076	101,639	87,751	91,001	78,738	46,150
over 10000 head	232,826	194,827	270,359	172,977	160,321	149,180
<i>State Total</i>	377,496	330,503	379,226	277,874	249,134	199,555
<i>Queensland</i>						
Less than 500 head	25,225	23,462	34,293	13,747	9,246	15,505
500 -1000 head	36,290	38,593	34,987	17,373	22,284	11,906
1000 - 10000 head	238,374	205,197	192,568	199,300	150,918	177,605
over 10000 head	324,156	322,397	327,379	311,896	299,039	299,062
<i>State Total</i>	624,045	589,648	589,227	542,316	481,487	504,078
<i>Victoria</i>						
Less than 500 head	0	0	820	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	7,773	8,234	4,395	7,773	7,840	3,251
1000 - 10000 head	22,125	29,500	34,551	15,271	24,728	21,635
over 10000 head	40,000	40,000	44,000	28,568	27,205	20,458
<i>State Total</i>	69,898	77,734	83,766	51,612	59,773	45,344
<i>South Australia</i>						
Less than 500 head	2,183	1,932	5,435	2,183	982	1,722
500 -1000 head	0	4,540	1,017	0	4,540	0
1000 - 10000 head	22,710	20,479	24,289	22,710	20,479	16,476
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	24,893	26,951	30,741	24,893	26,001	18,198
<i>Western Australia</i>						
Less than 500 head	2,828	4,301	8,393	88	2,191	0
500 -1000 head	0	9,366	7,300	0	5,383	0
1000 - 10000 head	35,300	37,752	63,551	11,335	21,822	20,312
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	38,128	51,419	79,244	11,423	29,396	20,312
<i>Australia</i>						
Less than 500 head	38,019	35,114	53,940	21,207	14,409	17,826
500 -1000 head	68,874	89,351	63,816	33,852	48,132	18,783
1000 - 10000 head	430,585	394,566	402,710	339,618	296,685	282,178
over 10000 head	596,982	557,224	641,738	513,441	486,565	468,700
<i>Total</i>	1,134,460	1,076,256	1,162,204	908,118	845,791	787,487