



## Livestock and heatwaves

Heatwaves can place great stress on animals, including livestock. They may need special care and attention during a heatwave. Access to clean, cool, fresh water and shade is essential. Planning ahead is the best approach to ensure the safety of your animals.

- Which areas of your property provide the best option for livestock during a heatwave? Think about access to shade and water.
- What infrastructure is necessary to ensure animals have access to shade and shelter?
- Think about timing of husbandry tasks (e.g. drenching, shearing, crutching) to limit animal movement and yarding on the hottest days.
- Who else needs to know your plan? Think about family, neighbours, staff and others who may be able to help.

### Be prepared

- ✓ When hot weather is forecast, make sure your animals will be well cared for
- ✓ Cool, clean drinking water is essential
- ✓ Make sure livestock have access to adequate shade
- ✓ A small amount of shade may be worse than no shade at all for a large flock, as the flock will crowd into the shade and the crowding will actually increase the heat individuals are suffering.

### Remember

- Water in black pipes that run over the surface of the ground can get very hot.
- Concrete troughs will keep water cooler than metal or black plastic ones.
- Some animals will not drink warm water. Ensure water troughs are regularly checked, cleaned and refilled.

### Heatwave warnings

Heatwave warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

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