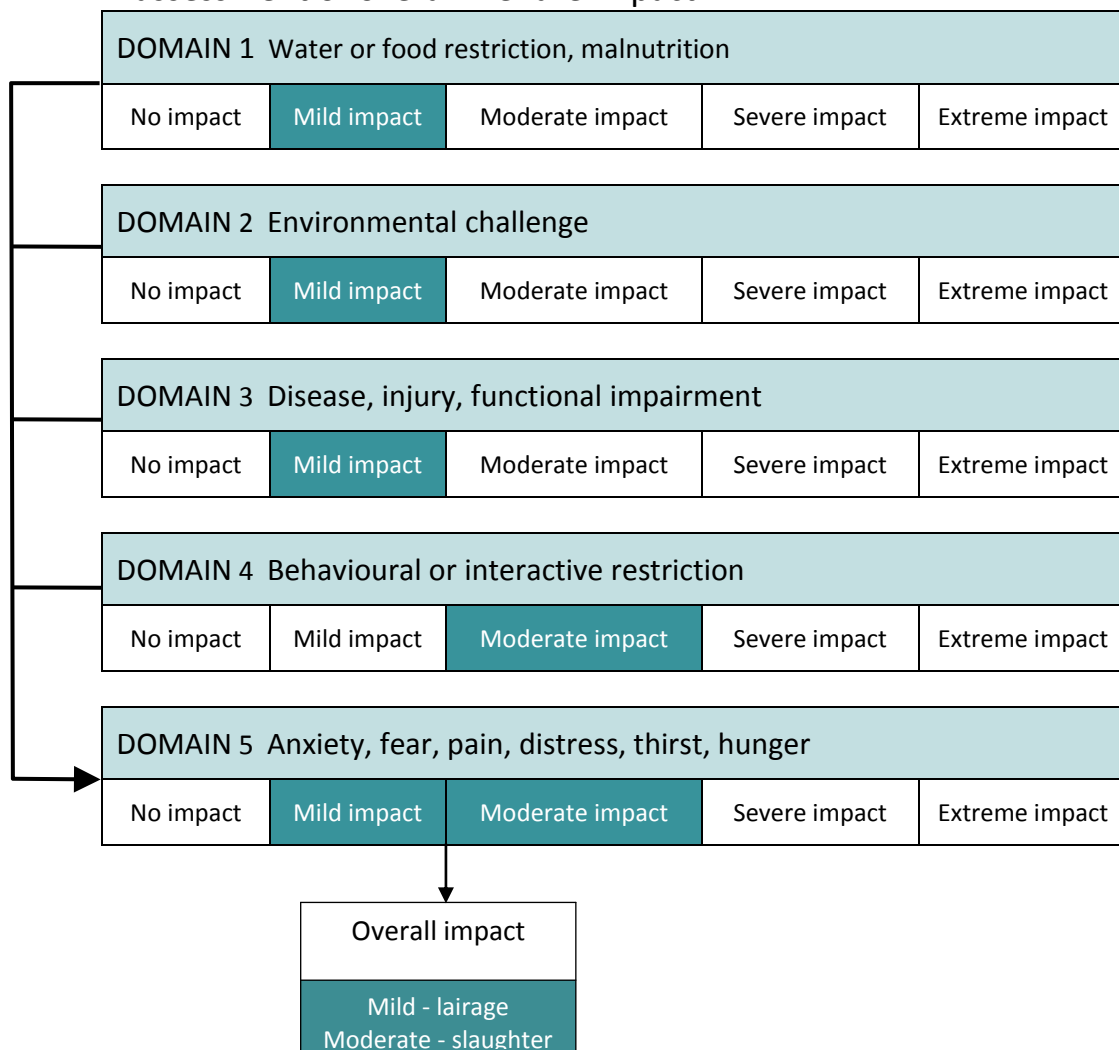


Control method: Lairage and slaughter of feral camels

Assumptions:

- There are no specific standards for the slaughter of camels in Australia, therefore we assumed that best practice would be followed in accordance with the National Animal Welfare Standards for Livestock Processing Establishments published by AMIC (standards as used for the slaughter of cattle). See: http://www.amic.org.au/content_common/pg-amics-animal-welfare-standards-for-processing-establishments.seo
- Restraint and slaughter of feral camels is likely to be more difficult than domesticated livestock and there will be variations and risks in the way they present at slaughter.
- Removal of camels for slaughter or export is a multi-stage process. This assessment applies from the holding of camels in yards after transportation to a domestic abattoir, up to death on the slaughter room floor. Separate assessments have also been done for mustering; yarding and holding; and loading and transport to the abattoir. The assessment of the impact of lairage and slaughter should not be considered in isolation from these prior stages as the cumulative effects of these procedures will compound welfare impact.

PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact



DURATION OF IMPACT				
Immediate to seconds	Minutes (slaughter)	Hours	Days (lairage)	Weeks

SCORE FOR PART A:	Lairage - 5 Slaughter - 4
Summary of evidence:	
Domain 1	By the time camels have got to this stage (i.e. they have been mustered, yarded and transported) they will have experience of being confined, drinking out of troughs and accepting fodder, so if held for longer periods there should not be any problems with water and food intake. Camels can sometimes be held for a week or more in the yards before they are slaughtered. There may be a period of short-term deprivation of food and water just prior to slaughter if a feed/water curfew is required by the abattoir.
Domain 2	When being held in the yards prior to slaughter there may be times when the animals are exposed to hot conditions, however it is expected that abattoirs will have mitigation strategies in place to deal with temperature extremes.
Domain 3	There is a small risk that animals could be injured during offloading and holding in the yards, however standards require that when these injuries are severe the animals are promptly euthanased to prevent further suffering.
Domain 4	Animals are restrained in yards, so they will not be able to perform the full range of natural behaviours. However they will have been drafted into class-based groups (bulls, cows, young camels) prior to loading and will be more familiar with being handled by humans than when first mustered.
Domain 5	The welfare impact over the days to weeks during lairage was considered to be mild. Moving from lairage to the slaughterhouse floor will be the most stressful period for camels during the slaughter process. Camels are likely to experience a moderate degree of fear, anxiety and distress for a period of minutes during this time.

PART B: assessment of mode of death

Time to insensibility (minus any lag time)				
Very rapid	Minutes	Hours	Days	Weeks
Level of suffering (after application of the method that causes death but before insensibility)				
No suffering	Mild suffering	Moderate suffering	Severe suffering	Extreme suffering

SCORE FOR PART B:	A
Summary of evidence:	

Duration –	Camels are stunned with a penetrating captive bolt gun to render them insensible to pain prior to being bled out. The time to insensibility will be very rapid for the majority of animals. The minimal acceptable success rate for stunning devices used in domestic animal abattoirs is 95% ^{1,2} .
Suffering –	When animals are rendered insensible immediately with a well-placed captive bolt shot and they do not regain consciousness prior to death there should be no suffering.

Summary

CONTROL METHOD:	Lairage and slaughter of feral camels
OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:	Lairage 5 Slaughter 4A
Comments	

Bibliography

1. Grandin, T. (2005). *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide for Cattle, Pigs, and Sheep*. (American Meat Institute Foundation) at: <http://www.grandin.com/RecAnimalHandlingGuidelines.html>>
2. Gregory, N.G. (2007). *Animal Welfare and Meat Production*. (CAB International: Wallingford, Oxfordshire).