

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

July 24 2008

#### **Livestock transporter prosecuted for animal cruelty**

A former livestock transporter has been convicted of animal cruelty in relation to a charge laid by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

Greg Dawson was found guilty after a hearing of the animal cruelty charge in the Fremantle Magistrates Court on Tuesday, July 22 2008 after he was filmed throwing sheep and using an electric prod to the face of a sheep. The incidents occurred at the Port of Fremantle while he was loading the livestock vessel, MV Bader III. Mr Dawson was also filmed pulling the leg of another sheep.

Greg Dawson was fined \$2500 plus costs, and the Magistrate also imposed a banning order preventing him being in charge or having contact with sheep and cattle for one year.

Department of Local Government and Regional Development Director General, Jennifer Mathews, said "animal cruelty in any industry would not be tolerated and a clear message must be given to those involved in any area of livestock production and transport that each individual animal must be treated humanely.

"These sorts of crimes against animals are not easily detected given the vastness of Western Australia and the fact that livestock are not generally in the public eye."

Ms Mathews acknowledged the work of the Animal Welfare Branch within the Department for the investigation and enforcement of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

Media Contact: Melissa Sims, Department of Local Government and Regional Development (08) 9217 1592