

To whom it Concerns

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the review of the Australian Standards for Export of Livestock (ASEL)

Being a sheep producer and Stock agent for some 40 years that has traded sheep into the export trade I have found the ability to use this trade as tool in selling sheep very important service to trade sheep, and set a floor in the market in the past. With demise of the number of facilities to process livestock in this are over the past decades due to regulations it reinforces the need of this trade

I realize what I have to say is general in nature after reviewing the ASEL and issue paper. I in no way condone the publicised treatment of sheep nor do I condone incompetence in accountability either.

I believe the figures supplied in the ASEL (50KG .315m2) on loading density which is one of the major issues are a problem to me. They are not of a major increase in area that sheep are allowed in short haul land transport. Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for land transport which are stated on page 103 Sec: GB11.8 (50KG .250m2)

The other point that I will make, it appears difficult to understand the accountability to which authority is responsible for enforcing the ASEL whether it is state authorities or AQIS. And constancy in accountability across the whole livestock chain. Producers that have to be subjected to random audits under the Livestock production Assurance LPA. One finds it hard to understand that producers being required to go into an action report for purchasing a bale of hay and on the other hand to find us in the situation we have now with sheep exports, with all the reports that are indicated in the ASEL. The conclusion one makes, unless that the people that have the responsibility to enforce the ASEL respectfully have the ability to enforce the ASEL. Producers will continue to be penalised financially by not having the ability to receive the true market value for their product we will achieve nothing.

Thanking you

HARVEY BENTON