



The Hon. Rick Mazza MLC
Member for the Agricultural Region
Parliament of Western Australia

The Chair
Technical Advisory Committee
Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
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Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) – Stage 2

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned paper seeking feedback on the remaining unresolved issues from the 2012-13 review of Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) raised in Stage 1 of this review and issues referred to the Committee by the 2018 McCarthy Report - *Independent Review of Conditions for the Export of Sheep to the Middle East During the Northern Hemisphere Summer*.

While I will leave the various industry sectors to provide comment on the intricate and specific questions asked throughout the document, as a Member of Parliament representing the Agricultural Region of Western Australia I am very concerned about the current state of the live export trade, ramifications of export licenses being suspended and future of the industry.

Export of livestock has been around since the 1800s and is of significant importance to the economy of Western Australia. In 2016/17 Australia exported 1.85 million sheep. Of these, 91 per cent were from WA worth almost quarter of a billion dollars. Economic modeling conducted by the Centre for International Economics identified that livestock exports generate about 10,000 jobs across northern and Western Australia.

In 2015/16 WA's largest major live export market was Kuwait taking 37% of our total live exports, followed by Qatar with 26%. Due to the unforeseen circumstances of sheep not being exported into the Middle East over the past few months we are seeing some of our biggest customers moving to source long-term supply of sheep from other countries.

The issue of animal welfare is important, it must be addressed by the Committee quickly in a balanced manner as soon as possible before we lose market share and possibly markets. If animal welfare standards are too low, animals will suffer, if too high, it will make the export market an unviable option.

I urge the Committee to take into consideration all comments made by the various sectors of the industry to ensure that the final package is one that addresses animal welfare needs, allows exporters to operate and allow industry to continue to provide a high quality product to the world.

Kindest Regards

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