



Reprimand issued to Australasian Global Exports Pty Ltd

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (**Department**) has issued a reprimand to the licensed livestock exporter Australasian Global Exports Pty Ltd (**AGE**). This action follows an investigation into the sourcing and preparation of a consignment of livestock for export to the People's Republic of China in August 2019.

The Department was not satisfied that the AGE consignment met the importing country requirements and took immediate action to stop the export in 2019 when issues came to the Department's attention.

The Department found that at the time of sourcing the consignment, AGE did not have sufficient systems or controls in place to ensure that livestock sourced for export met the importing country requirements. At the time, AGE was not able to identify and address irregularities in the timelines relating to the collection, and submission for testing, of blood samples from livestock in the consignment.

The Department found AGE's failure to ensure that the livestock were sourced in accordance with the importing country requirements to be a breach of AGE's licence conditions and issued a reprimand in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act 1997. In making its decision, the Department took into account the representations and information provided by AGE as to the additional procedures it had implemented in response to the identified irregularities to ensure that it detects and prevents any further irregularities in its sourcing of livestock for export.

The irregularities identified by the Department are specific to the particular consignment referred to above. The Department has found no evidence of any broader issue with consignments that have been exported or are undergoing preparation for export to China or elsewhere.

The Department has confidence in Australia's regulatory systems to ensure that consignments of livestock continue to be sourced, prepared and exported in compliance with the relevant import conditions of Australia's trading partners. However, it is the responsibility of each exporter to ensure that agricultural commodities are sourced and prepared in accordance with the importing country requirements. The Australian trade relies on exporters to have effective systems, management structures and oversight of its employees and contractors for ensuring the importing country requirements are met.

This decision demonstrates the Department's absolute commitment to ensuring that only agricultural commodities which have been sourced and prepared in accordance with the importing country requirements and all other regulatory requirements are exported from Australia.