





## Table of contents

<b>Acronyms and glossary</b> .....	3
<b>Summary and recommendations</b> .....	4
<b>Part 1 - Background to the ASEL and LESAG reviews</b> .....	6
The Farmer Review .....	6
Review of the Inspection Regime Prior to Export of Livestock from Fremantle Port .....	7
Governance and scope of the review .....	8
Members of the ASEL and LESAG Steering Committees .....	8
Historical development of ASEL .....	9
Regulatory framework.....	10
<b>Part 2 – Process of the review</b> .....	12
Steering Committee meetings.....	12
Information available to the committees.....	12
Consultation and submissions .....	13
<b>Part 3 – Consideration of issues</b> .....	14
Regulatory Framework for the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock .....	16
Areas not the responsibility of the Steering Committees .....	16
<b>Part 4 – Next steps and conclusion of ASEL review</b> .....	18
<b>Part 5 – Role of Steering Committee and review of LESAG</b> .....	19
Matters raised in submissions about LESAG .....	19
Comments from submissions about LESAG .....	19
Consideration of issues.....	21
<b>Part 6 – Next steps and conclusion of LESAG</b> .....	212
<b>Appendixes</b> .....	23



## Acronyms and glossary

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<b>ASEL</b>	Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock Version 2.3
<b>AAWSEL</b>	Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock Version 1.0
<b>AAV</b>	An AQIS Accredited Veterinarian who is accredited by DAFF to carry out duties in relation to the export of livestock
<b>CRMP</b>	Consignment Risk Management Plan
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
<b>DAFF</b>	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
<b>ESCAS</b>	Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System
<b>Farmer Review</b>	2011 <i>Independent Review of Australia's Livestock Export Trade</i> conducted by Bill Farmer AO.
<b>Land Transport Standards</b>	Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock
<b>LESAG</b>	Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group
<b>NOI</b>	Notice of Intention (to export)
<b>Registered Premises</b>	For holding and assembling of livestock for export and pre-export quarantine or for isolation of livestock for export
<b>OIE</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health



## Summary and recommendations

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### Summary

Since 2004, the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) have set the animal welfare standards for the conduct of the livestock export trade up to the point of disembarkation overseas, as required by Australian, state and territory governments. Exporters must comply with the ASEL to be permitted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to export livestock.

The current standards cover the five major steps along the livestock export chain up to the point of disembarkation overseas and the provision for overseas air transportation of livestock:

- Sourcing and on-farm preparation of livestock
- Land transport of livestock for export
- Management of livestock in registered premises
- Vessel preparation and loading
- On-board management of livestock
- Air transport of livestock

The species covered by ASEL are: cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, deer and camelids.

In line with recommendations from the *Independent Review of Australia's Livestock Export Trade* (the Farmer Review), a review of ASEL and the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG) was undertaken by a Steering Committee, assisted by a DAFF secretariat (the secretariat), to determine what improvements could be made.

Through targeted consultation, the Steering Committee engaged with a broad based group covering stakeholders across the livestock export chain including exporters, producer groups, industry organisations, livestock transporters and shippers, veterinarians, researchers, community and welfare groups and members of the public.

The secretariat coordinated activities related to delivering the review of the ASEL and review of the role and function of the LESAG. The Steering Committee reports to the DAFF Livestock Export Reform Program Implementation Board, which is responsible for endorsing the standards and seeking approval from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

This report outlines the background to the ASEL and LESAG Reviews, the review process including consultation and information considered, and outlines the main issues considered by the Steering Committee in developing new standards.

The primary recommendation of the report is the endorsement of new draft standards to replace the current ASEL, the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock (AAWSEL) Version 1.0.

### Recommendations

1. That the DAFF Livestock Export Reform Program Implementation Board (the Board) **endorse** the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock (AAWSEL) Version 1.0 as a basis for further consultation (**Appendix 1**).
  - a. The Board **notes** the inclusion of more clearly articulated respective roles and responsibilities for regulating the livestock export supply chain between the Australian Government and states and territories (**Appendix 1**).
  - b. The Board **notes** the deliberations of the Steering Committee relating to the export of sheep from southern ports to the Middle East in winter months.
  - c. The Board **notes** that a number of contentious issues have not yet been resolved by the Steering Committee and require further consultation and discussion.
2. That the Board **endorses** the proposed new Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG) membership and terms of reference.



3. That the Board **approves** seeking the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's policy approval to legally draft the standards for public consultation



## Part 1 - Background to the ASEL and LESAG reviews

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### The Farmer Review

On 13 June 2011, the Australian Government commissioned Bill Farmer AO to conduct the *Independent Review of Australia's Livestock Export Trade* (the Farmer Review) to seek advice on the long term sustainability of the livestock export trade.

The Farmer Review was tasked with examining the complete chain for livestock exports up to and including the point of slaughter. Specifically in relation to the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL), the Farmer Review's term of reference (b) was to examine:

- The adequacy of the ASEL as they apply to the preparation and export of all livestock with consideration of responsibilities for compliance and enforcement of the ASEL.

The ASEL set the animal welfare standards for the conduct of the livestock export trade from Australia. The standards cover the sourcing and on-farm preparation of livestock, land transport for export, management in registered premises, vessel preparation and loading, and onboard management (for ships and aircraft).

The Standards are relevant from the farm to the point of disembarkation overseas and cover six steps along the export chain, each step has an associated expected outcome:

- **Standard 1. Sourcing and on-farm preparation of livestock:** the sourcing of appropriately prepared livestock that are fit to travel is critical to successful health and welfare outcomes during export.
- **Standard 2. Land transport of livestock for export:** land transport is to be planned and undertaken on a competently operated and suitable vehicle, with the livestock being handled in a manner that prevents injury and minimises stress throughout the journey.
- **Standard 3. Management of livestock in registered premises:** livestock are to be assembled at registered premises, where the husbandry and management practices should ensure that the livestock are adequately prepared for the export voyage.
- **Standard 4. Vessel preparation and loading:** the sea voyage is to be planned and undertaken on an appropriately provisioned vessel certified for the carriage of livestock, and the livestock loaded in a manner that prevents injury and minimises stress.
- **Standard 5. Onboard management of livestock:** the onboard facilities, management and husbandry must be adequate to maintain the health and welfare of livestock throughout the sea voyage.
- **Standard 6. Air transport of livestock:** the animals are to be prepared according to required protocols, are fit to travel, and the journey is to be planned and undertaken in a manner that meets the importing country requirements for the air transport of livestock.

The Farmer Review did not undertake a comprehensive review of ASEL. Under its terms of reference, the review considered the overall adequacy of ASEL for the preparation and export of livestock and specific aspects of ASEL where relevant to issues identified by the review.

#### The Farmer Review's considerations and findings

The final report of the Farmer Review was provided to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 31 August 2011.

The report highlights the finding that in general, export industry participants and regulators are satisfied with ASEL as a basis for the orderly management and regulation of the industry. The submissions and review discussions indicate that there is some confusion about the role of ASEL within the regulatory framework.

The Farmer Review found that a full review of ASEL was a priority. Standards need to be clear, essential (causally related with mortality or otherwise scientifically based), consistent and verifiable. Ongoing feedback and review processes need to be clarified and strengthened and roles and responsibilities of



bodies engaged in monitoring and enforcement of ASEL and related welfare standards need to be clarified and formalised. In addition, accountability for shipboard welfare needs to be better defined.

The findings of Chapter 4 of the report, which specifically considers ASEL, are as follows:

- Since the introduction of ASEL, there have been improvements in many domestic elements of the supply chain.
- ASEL needs to continue to evolve, in relation both to persistent issues like mortality in sheep exported from southern ports in winter months and to the results of scientific research.
- There needs to be closer examination of a range of issues relating to ASEL, including issues of scope, clarity and accountability, flexibility, sanctions and review procedures.

The report made a number of recommendations in relation to ASEL, which include:

**Recommendation 1** - The Review recommends that the Australian Government expedite work with the states and territories to more clearly articulate respective roles and responsibilities for regulating the livestock export supply chain.

**Recommendation 6** - The Review recommends that a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) be undertaken.

- The review should inter alia examine the policy on export of sheep from southern ports to the Middle East in winter months, with a view to:
  - mitigate feedlot and shipboard losses in adverse weather conditions
  - mitigate losses from heat stress and inanition during the voyage.
- The review should also consider additional specific criteria, identified in recent industry-funded research, for selection of suitable livestock for export.

**Recommendation 7** - The Review recommends that the role and function of the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG) should be reviewed.

On 21 October 2011 the Australian Government agreed or agreed-in-principle to all 14 recommendations of the Farmer Review as part of its announcement of changes to the livestock export trade.

## Review of the Inspection Regime Prior to Export of Livestock from Fremantle Port

The Farmer Review states:

**Recommendation 4** - The Review recommends that the current inspection regime prior to export from Fremantle be reviewed, to ensure that thorough individual animal inspection by the AAV is conducted.

In response to recommendation 4 of the Farmer Review, a related review of the inspection regime prior to the export of livestock from Fremantle port (the Fremantle Review) was conducted.

On 21 December 2012, the Fremantle Export Inspection Review Steering Committee provided a report to the DAFF Livestock Export Reform Program Implementation Board (the Board). The Board was established by the government to be the body responsible for delivering the recommendations of the Farmer Review report and to oversee the review processes.

Of the 7 recommendations made by the Fremantle Review Steering Committee, 5 recommendations are relevant to the ASEL Review and have been considered by the ASEL Review Steering Committee. These are:

- **Recommendation 1**  
Identify the roles and responsibilities of all parties who interact with the animals throughout the live export chain including the legislative requirements.
- **Recommendation 2**



Identify in ASEL the competencies and training required for all people who interact with the animals throughout the live export chain from sourcing to loading.

Ensure that individuals placed in such roles have an understanding of their responsibilities and are competent to perform their duties.

- **Recommendation 3**

Outline in the ASEL what record keeping must be done throughout the different stages of the inspection process starting from receipt of the animals at the registered premises, how often, who keeps the information and who it must be made available to when required.

In particular:

- DAFF to develop templates to support the record keeping requirements for AAVs as stated in *Export Control (Animal) Orders 2004* (part 4A 14 )
- The requirement for record keeping of rejection at unloading set out in standard 3.17 to be expanded to cover animals rejected at all stages of the assembly process
- A consignment report summarising animal health issues, reasons for rejections, adverse events and treatments should be provided to DAFF and the onboard AAV prior to issuing the export permit.

- **Recommendation 5**

The primary point for individual inspection should be at the registered premises and the facilities and inspection process must be designed to reliably assess each animal for fitness to travel and against all of the ASEL rejection criteria.

- **Recommendation 7**

That at each point in the supply chain, inspection procedures and facilities are in place to allow the identification and removal of unfit animals in a timely manner to ensure that animals unfit for transport or export are not transported to the next stage.

## Governance and scope of the review

Steering committees, supported by a secretariat from within DAFF, were established under the Board to oversee the reviews of ASEL and LESAG. The governance and scope of the reviews are outlined in the terms of reference at **Appendix 2**. There were initial delays in establishing the committees and the Minister provided an extension to the review of ASEL and LESAG to allow the steering committees additional time to consider the recommendations of the Fremantle Review report.

## Members of the ASEL and LESAG Steering Committees

The ASEL Review Steering Committee members are:

- Dr Mark Schipp, Chair and Chief Veterinary Officer, DAFF
- Dr Tony Britt, Director, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria (with representation by Dr David Champness, Principal Veterinary Officer, Livestock Management Standards Biosecurity Australia, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria)
- Dr Chris Chilcott, Director Animal Industries, Agriculture and Food, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Queensland
- Dr Kevin Doyle, National Veterinary Director, Australian Veterinary Association
- Mr Kevin Fechner, National Councillor, Australian Livestock Transporters Association
- Dr David Jarvie, Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
- Dr Bidha Jones, Chief Scientist, RSPCA Australia
- Dr Richard Norris, Principal Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
- Dr Mark Peters, Principal Advisor Animal Welfare, Biosecurity South Australia, PIRSA





- Dr Brian Radunz, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, formerly Chief Veterinary Officer
- Mr Joe Sullivan, Manager, Extensive Livestock Industry Development, NSW Department of Primary Industries

The LESAG Review Steering Committee members are:

- Dr Mark Schipp, Chair and Chief Veterinary Officer, DAFF
- Dr Tony Britt, Director, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria (with representation by Dr David Champness, Principal Veterinary Officer, Livestock Management Standards Biosecurity Australia, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria)
- Dr Chris Chilcott, Director Animal Industries, Agriculture and Food, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Queensland
- Dr Kevin Doyle, National Veterinary Director, Australian Veterinary Association
- Mr Kevin Fechner, National Councillor, Australian Livestock Transporters Association
- Dr Bidida Jones, Chief Scientist, RSPCA Australia
- Dr Richard Norris, Principal Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
- Ms Alison Penfold, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
- Dr Mark Peters, Principal Advisor Animal Welfare, Biosecurity South Australia, PIRSA
- Dr Brian Radunz, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, formerly Chief Veterinary Officer
- Mr Joe Sullivan, Manager, Extensive Livestock Industry Development, NSW Department of Primary Industries

## Historical development of ASEL

The ASEL were developed in 2004 in response to the *MV Cormo Express* incident in 2003 when Saudi Arabian officials rejected a consignment of sheep over alleged disease concerns. After subsequent rejection of the sheep by some other countries, the sheep disembarked in Eritrea 80 days after being initially loaded on the vessel.

Immediately following this incident, the Australian Government commissioned Dr John Keniry to lead a review of the live export trade (the Keniry Review).<sup>1</sup> The Keniry Review made eight recommendations, all of which were accepted by the government, however some recommendations were accepted with modifications.

The Keniry Review report highlights the responsibility of the Australian Government for safeguarding the broader animal welfare interests of the Australian community in the export process by setting clear standards for the export of livestock, administering them firmly and consistently, and ensuring governance and reporting arrangements during the export process were transparent.

Recommendation 1 of the Keniry review was for the development of a national standard for livestock exports, the "Australian Code for Export of Livestock", which:

- focused on the health and welfare of animals during export;
- was consistent with the model codes as they were updated;
- engaged States and Territories and considered the views of industry and animal welfare groups in the development of the standard;
- recognised the outcomes sought in the export of livestock and took into account the whole process for sourcing, preparing, assembling and transporting animals for export; and
- must be directly referenced in the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* and the *Export Control Act 1982*.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/reports/keniry>



The Keniry Review report also recommended that an interim national standard be in place by 1 May 2004 and finalised by 31 December 2004.

In response to the Keniry Review, DAFF reviewed the existing Australian Livestock Export Standards (ALES) developed by the export industry and convened some eighty experts and stakeholders in six expert government/industry working groups in 2004 to develop the initial ASEL. Extensive public consultation was undertaken, which included a 60 day public submission period. The Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee (LESAC) was established to oversee the development of this work.

In April 2004 the then Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) endorsed the initial version of ASEL, noting that the standards would be further developed and regularly reviewed in the light of further research findings and experience.

By 1 December 2004, initial standards had been prepared and work had commenced on the drafting of Version 1 of ASEL. LESAC reconvened to provide ongoing advice to DAFF and to the Minister on the continued development of appropriate standards.

The Australian Government agreed to lead a process to review ASEL from time to time to ensure they reflect the Model Codes of Practice and Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals, latest knowledge in risk management, technical developments, scientific research findings and improved management systems that relate to the health and welfare of livestock in the export industry. Since the release of Version 1 of ASEL in July 2005, the following updated versions of ASEL have come into effect:

- Version 2 – September 2006
- Version 2.1 – December 2006
- Version 2.2 – December 2008
- Version 2.3 – April 2011

The Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG) was established in 2009 to further the work of the previous Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee. LESAG's function is to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry through DAFF on the revision, further development and implementation of ASEL. LESAG is chaired by DAFF and membership of LESAG was limited to 10 members. Members are selected on the basis of their expertise and experience to give as wide a spread of knowledge in relation to the livestock export industry as possible.

## Regulatory framework

The ASEL are given effect under the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Standards) Order 2005* and are referenced in instruments including the *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004*.

The *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Standards) Order 2005* requires livestock export licence holders to comply with the ASEL (Version 2.3, which is incorporated by reference) when exporting livestock. Compliance with ASEL is, by virtue of the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Standards) Order 2005* and subsection 17(5) of the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997*, a condition of a livestock export licence.

The *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004* makes frequent reference to the ASEL. For example, the order provides that the export of livestock cannot occur unless the Secretary of DAFF has approved the Notice of Intention to export (NOI) and Consignment Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for a proposed export. The licensed exporter must also submit their proposed Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) for assessment along with their NOI and CRMP. The ESCAS submission must:

- provide evidence of compliance with internationally agreed animal welfare standards
- demonstrate control through the supply chain
- demonstrate traceability through the supply chain
- meet reporting and accountability requirements
- include independent auditing.



DAFF uses a checklist when assessing the ESCAS supplied by a licensed exporter.

If the information submitted for the specific consignment and supply chain is satisfactory, the NOI, CRMP and ESCAS may be approved. The approval may be subject to conditions. Under the ESCAS, the exporter is responsible for implementing the control of the supply chain, traceability systems, animal welfare aspects, organising independent audits and any required reporting.

Failure to comply with the ESCAS or conditions of approval could result in a range of compliance measures and sanctions including failure to receive approval for future consignments or an exporter losing their licence to export livestock.

The criteria for approving a NOI or CRMP includes whether the export proposed in the NOI or CRMP complies with ASEL. In addition, under the *Australian Meat and Livestock Industry (Conditions on live-stock export licences) Order 2012*, compliance with the *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004* is a condition of a livestock export licence.

Non-compliance with the ASEL by a licence holder may attract a range of compliance measures and sanctions, including offences and penalties under the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* and *Export Control Act 1982* frameworks, as well as various administrative sanctions relating to the refusal to grant certain approvals under the *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004*.

Livestock sourced for export must also meet all requirements under relevant state and territory legislation, including animal welfare Acts. State and territory governments are responsible for ensuring that these requirements are met. Areas of state and territory responsibilities include animal health and welfare, vehicle registration and operation, licensing and operation of facilities and equipment where appropriate, occupation health and safety, and environmental protection and operation of companies.

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock (the Land Transport Standards) is a set of nationally agreed standards and guidelines developed to ensure appropriate livestock welfare during the transport process.

The Land Transport Standards are based on the revision of the Model Codes of Practice for Welfare for the transport of various livestock species and were developed cooperatively by the livestock industries and government in consultation with stakeholders. The Land Transport Standards cover the transport of livestock by road and will be referenced in part two of the new draft standards.



## Part 2 – Process of the review

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### Steering Committee meetings

The steering committees convened on 12 occasions between August 2012 and May 2013 to discuss issues, consider information, and to form a position on issues in order to deliver on the terms of reference.

### Information available to the committees

On the commencement of the reviews, the steering committees were provided with the following information:

- Terms of reference for the review
- Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock— Version 2.3 April 2011<sup>2</sup>
- Independent Review of Australia's Livestock Export Trade (the Farmer Review)<sup>3</sup>
- Industry-Government Working Group on Live Cattle Exports— Final report to Australian Government 26 August 2011<sup>4</sup>
- Industry-Government Working Group on Live Sheep and Goat Exports - Final report to Australian Government 26 August 2011<sup>5</sup>
- *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2012)*
- *Export Control (Animals) Amendment Order 2012 (No. 1)*
- *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004*
- *Export Control Act 1982*
- *Export Control (Orders) Regulation 1982*
- *Summary of Industry R&D Reports*
- *Summary of Reportable Mortality Investigations*

During the process of the review, the Steering Committee were provided with additional information including:

- Government response to the Farmer Review
- Submissions made to the Farmer Review 2011
- Submissions made to the ASEL review<sup>5</sup>
- The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock (Land Transport Standards) Version 1.1
- Harmonising ASEL and the Land Transport Standards, secretariat
- Paper on contentious issues for discussion, secretariat
- R&D reports, secretariat
- R&D reports, RSPCA (Australia)
- R&D reports, Department of Agriculture and Food WA
- R&D reports, Industry
- Summarised submissions, R&D reports, secretariat

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/export-trade/livestock-export-standards>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.daff.gov.au/livestockexportreview/the\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_independent\\_review\\_into\\_australias\\_livestock\\_export\\_trade](http://www.daff.gov.au/livestockexportreview/the_report_of_the_independent_review_into_australias_livestock_export_trade)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/export-trade/submissions\\_to\\_the\\_review\\_of\\_australian\\_standards\\_for\\_the\\_export\\_of\\_livestock\\_and\\_the\\_livestock\\_export\\_standards\\_advisory\\_group](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/export-trade/submissions_to_the_review_of_australian_standards_for_the_export_of_livestock_and_the_livestock_export_standards_advisory_group)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.daff.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/2136206/industry-government-working-group-on-live-sheep-and-goat-exports-v3-21-aug2011.pdf](http://www.daff.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/2136206/industry-government-working-group-on-live-sheep-and-goat-exports-v3-21-aug2011.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/fremantle-review/final-report-review-inspection-regime-export-livestock-fremantle-port>



- Discussion papers, secretariat
- Fremantle Review Report<sup>6</sup>

## Consultation and submissions

The Australian Government consulted widely during the ASEL review process, including with industry, state and territory governments, the veterinary profession and animal welfare groups.

Consultation included targeting stakeholders and seeking public submissions, which was announced via media release on 24 July 2012.<sup>6</sup> Public submissions were due to the DAFF secretariat by 7 September 2012.

The secretariat received over 30 submissions to the review of ASEL, including the following:

- 7 from State and Territory government departments;
- 5 from industry;
- 5 from animal protection groups;
- 10 from AQIS accredited veterinarians (employed by the exporters); and
- 3 from individuals.

Copies of the submissions can be obtained on the DAFF website at [www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health).

The Committee has also taken into account submissions on ASEL made to the Farmer Review. These submissions can be viewed at [http://www.livestockexportreview.gov.au/submission\\_received](http://www.livestockexportreview.gov.au/submission_received).

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.daff.gov.au/about/media-centre/dept-releases/2012/government-to-review-the-australian-standards-for-livestock-export>



## Part 3 – Consideration of issues

In undertaking the review of ASEL, the Steering Committee considered a range of issues from editorial or technical in nature to more significant issues. The most contentious issues discussed include; reducing reportable mortality rates, stocking densities, increasing bedding requirements and introducing bedding management requirements.

During the development of the proposed new standards, the secretariat prepared updated standards incorporating information received from the submissions and at the advice of the Steering Committee.

Throughout the process the Steering Committee identified a number of areas where consideration of issues was limited due to a lack of research. These areas include, but are not limited to: bedding material and management; stocking densities onboard vessels; stocking densities for buffalo, deer and alpaca at registered premises; and the maximum weight for cattle exported by sea.

The Steering Committee was unable to reach consensus on the 13 contentious issues listed in the table below. The draft AAWSEL contains optional text regarding these unresolved contentious issues, some of which are discussed below.

No.	Contentious issue	Draft AAWSEL provision
1	Reducing reportable mortality rates	Definition of 'reportable level'
2	Exporting by sea <i>Bos taurus</i> cattle with a body condition score of 4 or 5	Standard 1.3
3	Sourcing of <i>Bos taurus</i> cattle for export by sea to the Middle East from May to October	Standard 1.4
4	Maximum weight of cattle and buffalo sourced for export by sea as slaughter/feeder animals and for breeding	Standards 1.8 and 1.9
5	DAFF discretion to approve the sourcing of lambs and goat kids for export by sea	Standard 1.11
6	Time off shears prior to export by sea and DAFF discretion to approve the shearing of hair sheep	Standard 1.16
7	Sourcing of feral goats for export by sea	Standard 1.17
8	Minimum time sheep, goats, cattle and buffalo must remain at registered premises prior to export by sea	Standards 3.10 and 3.11
9	Stocking densities in registered premises	Standard 3.14
10	Onboard stocking densities for pregnant cattle/camels/buffalo	Standard 4.3
11	Requirements for accredited veterinarians on sea voyages	Standard 4.4
12	Onboard stocking densities for cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats	Part 4 appendix
13	Provision and management of onboard bedding	Appendixes 4.3 and 4.4.7

Discussions on the draft AAWSEL took place around the following key topics:

### 1. Restructuring the standards

The Steering Committee agreed to a number of structural changes to the standards, including: removing division one and replacing them with overarching guiding principles; removing the majority of part two and referencing the Land Transport Standards instead, to avoid duplication between the two sets of standards; including a table outlining roles, responsibilities and desirable competencies as part of the implementation



of the recommendations of the Fremantle Review report; and including two new parts, on inspection of livestock and reporting and record keeping respectively, as part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Fremantle Review report.

## **2. Additional definitions**

The Steering Committee considered that ASEL is too open to interpretation and there is a need to remove the legal uncertainty of certain standards. The Steering Committee agreed to develop a new definition list in the updated version of AAWSEL, to be further considered throughout the drafting process.

## **3. Body condition scores**

Given the new national system developed through Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for beef cattle body condition scores, the Steering Committee agreed that AAWSEL should convert the current system on 1-7 body condition score to be consistent with the new 0-5 body condition score.

## **4. Shearing times and shearing for hair sheep**

No agreement was reached on the issue of time off shears or sourcing of sheep with hair more than 25mm. Currently sheep shorn on farm can be shorn 10 days prior to export, but this does not apply at the registered premises for sheep held in sheds. Background to the issues surrounding shearing times and shearing of hair sheep was provided to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

## **5. Specify short/long and extended voyages**

All members of the Steering Committee agreed that now there are longer voyages than when ASEL was first introduced a new category of extended long haul voyages (over 30 days) be introduced requiring additional provisions. These provisions have been drafted and will be consulted on prior to the final draft of AAWSEL.

## **6. ASEL and the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)**

The Steering Committee discussed a request from National Livestock Identification System Limited for the new standards to explicitly require compliance with the NLIS. It was agreed that the requirement to comply with NLIS would be included in the guiding principles in AAWSEL, though not as a separate standard.

## **7. Reportable mortality rates**

The Steering Committee did not reach agreement on whether the reportable mortality rates should be reduced or not. All members noted that mortality rates have been incrementally improving since ASEL was developed, and the reportable mortality rates originally introduced are much higher than average mortalities currently experienced. There was discussion over whether triggering additional investigations by reducing the reportable mortality rate would reduce mortalities and whether such investigations would be able to identify what factors led to the high mortality level and, where possible, recommend mitigation strategies.

## **8. Stocking densities and allowing extra space for pregnant animals**

No agreement was reached on whether the current stocking densities are appropriate or should be changed. The Steering Committee was provided with detailed papers and research on the topic, recommending both the status quo and reduced stocking densities (including information that current stocking densities are non OIE compliant and a CSIRO project – W.LIV.0253, *Refining Stocking Densities*, January 2013 – that found current ASEL space allowances were appropriate and suggested further research into possible refinements). The Steering Committee considered, but did not agree on, increasing the extra space allowance for pregnant animals.

## **9. Provision of bedding and bedding management**

No agreement was reached on increasing bedding and bedding management requirements. Some available research and development was provided to the Steering Committee for review.



## 10. Changing the name of ASEL to AAWSEL

The Steering Committee were provided advice from Standards Australia that ASEL must be renamed given Australian copyright laws. All members agreed the next iteration of ASEL will be renamed to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock (AAWSEL) Version 1.0.

## 11. Vaccination of livestock (bovine respiratory diseases)

The Steering Committee agreed that the new standards require all cattle destined for extended long haul voyages are to be vaccinated against bovine respiratory disease complex. Other vaccinations such as scabby mouth were considered. The Steering Committee noted that testing and vaccination requirements were also specified through importing country health protocols.

## 12. Livestock from southern ports (note this relates to Farmer Review recommendation 6)

The Steering Committee considered the policy of exporting sheep from southern ports to the Middle East in winter months, with a view to mitigating feedlot and shipboard losses in adverse weather conditions, and mitigating losses from heat stress and inanition during the voyage.

There was a lack of consensus within the Steering Committee to make any substantial revisions to the standards with respect to this issue. The Steering Committee agreed to a standard specifying that fodder must be provided in troughs to livestock at the registered premises, and not from the floor/ground. It was identified that the provision of adequate shelter at registered premises would be useful in mitigating losses, however the standards currently already state the need for shelter or other appropriate protection.

In the absence of additional specific research, the Steering Committee was unable to identify new standards to address this issue. The new standards review process to replace LESAG will be advised to further consider the issue including recommendations for additional research.

## 13. Coordinating with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in its review of shipping standards and carriage of livestock under *Marine Orders Part 43*

Coordination with AMSA is currently underway, and the formal AMSA review is due to commence by the end of June 2013.

## Regulatory Framework for the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock

In undertaking the review of ASEL, it was considered outside the scope of the Steering Committee as to whether the new standards should be drafted as a separate order, or remain referenced in the *Australian Meat and Livestock Industry (Export Licensing) Regulations 1998* and the *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004*. The department advised that the AAWSEL should be given effect in a similar way to the ASEL.

## Areas not the responsibility of the Steering Committees

The review Steering Committees are not responsible for the following:

### 1. Position statement

The Australian Position Statement on the Export of Livestock which is located at the front of the current ASEL is being reviewed as per recommendation 9 of the Farmer Review through a separate process. This work falls outside the ASEL Steering Committee terms of reference.

### 2. Monitoring and enforcement

Monitoring and enforcement of the AAWSEL will follow the implementation stage, the department's operational staff will be responsible for this work and it falls outside the Steering Committee terms of reference.





### **3. Changes to other regulations (Export Control Orders and the *Marine Orders 43*)**

Ongoing consultation is taking place within the department about any changes that may affect the Export Control Orders and with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on any changes that affect the *Marine Orders 43*. This work falls outside the Steering Committee terms of reference.



## Part 4 – Next steps and conclusion of ASEL review

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If policy approval is given by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the following steps (as per **Annex 2** – terms of reference) will take place subject to approval by the Board.

### **1. Development of a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS)**

An options RIS will be required to help determine which of the options proposed in the draft AAWSEL are to be accepted. It is anticipated that the options RIS will be consulted on in conjunction with the drafted standards. The options RIS will be available on the department's website, consulted on with targeted stakeholders and be made available for public comment.

### **2. Development of the exposure draft of the updated standards facilitated through the department's legal services unit**

Once the Steering Committee have provided the draft standards to the Board, and approval is provided by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, they will be legally drafted. The Steering Committee notes the importance of legally reviewing and drafting the standards to ensure the standards are more clearly defined, consistent and enforceable. While legal review and drafting may alter the wording of the draft AAWSEL, the intent is that the policy supporting the standards remains unchanged.

### **3. Circulation of the exposure draft and RIS for comment**

Once the standards are drafted, the next phase of the consultation process will take place. The exposure draft of the standards and RIS will be available on the department's website and sent to targeted stakeholders for consultation.

### **4. Review comments, refine and release of final draft for comment**

The new standards advisory group (discussed below), with support from the secretariat, will review comments made on the RIS and exposure draft AAWSEL standards and incorporate changes for the final draft, which will also be available for comment.

### **5. Standards approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Once the final AAWSEL standards are developed, approval will be sought by the Minister.

### **6. Drafting of final orders**

The final orders will be drafted and loaded onto the department's website.

### **7. Implementation of new standards**

Upon completion of the new standards, the implementation phase will take place. Training will be provided for the department's operation staff and industry will be provided with appropriate time to incorporate changes into their operation manuals.



## Part 5 – Role of Steering Committee and review of LESAG

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In reviewing the role and function of Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG) the Steering Committee recommends that a new standards advisory group be established to replace the LESAG. The proposed terms of reference for this new advisory group are at **Appendix 3**. The terms of reference for the review of the role and function of LESAG are at **Appendix 2**.

### *Background*

Since 2004, the government has commissioned three groups to provide advice on the ASEL. The Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee 1 (LESAC 1) was in place from January 2004 until December 2004, the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee 2 (LESAC 2) operated between April 2005 and December 2008. LESAG was in place between January 2009 and May 2011.

The initial ASEL came into effect on 1 December 2004 to meet the Australian Government's deadline for enactment of new legislation approved by Parliament in response to the Keniry Review recommendations. The draft initial ASEL were developed by six expert working groups. The members of these groups included livestock producers, stock agents, livestock transporters, exporters, ship owners, airline representatives, maritime safety experts and government regulators. To develop the six standards, the working groups referred to international and national legislation, codes of practice, industry standards and guidelines.

The Australian Government commissioned LESAC 1 to provide advice on the draft initial standards, which were considered in early October 2004. On 1 December 2004 the initial ASEL were implemented and on 31 December 2004 LESAC 1 was decommissioned with the completion of its terms of reference.

The Australian Government established LESAC 2 in 2005, with similar membership to LESAC 1, to provide advice on the revision, further development and implementation of ASEL Version 1. ASEL Version 1 came into effect in July 2005, Version 2 in September 2006, and Versions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 in December 2006, December 2008 and April 2011, respectively.

Under the terms of reference for LESAG established in 2009, the group provided advice to the Minister, through DAFF on the revision, further development and implementation of the ASEL.

The LESAG also considered submissions from the Consultative Forum on the Livestock Export Industry, key stakeholders and the public as part of the advisory process.

### *Matters raised in submissions about LESAG*

Comments received on the general issue of LESAG relevance and effectiveness include:

- The current LESAG process has been ineffective in achieving continuous improvement of ASEL and has failed to achieve required outcomes.
- The development of a constructive industry/government review group could also potentially allow for some collaboration in identifying ASEL related R&D priorities in the future.
- Some industry groups would like to participate on future work undertaken on the ASEL, or be consulted on issues that relate to their particular industry.
- All participants must be fundamentally committed to the improvement of welfare within a context of the continuation of the trade.
- Groups with established policies to end the trade will potentially divert resources from constructive and continuous improvement to be made to ASEL.



- The success of the Industry Government Working Group and the Industry Government Implementation Group demonstrates the ability of Government and industry to work together constructively and provides a model for continuous improvement of ASEL.
- Establish a small, dynamic decision making group that is able to operate efficiently and expediently both in and out of session.
- Concerns that the current LESAG model is unable to support collaborative processes and enable the review of the Standards to deliver clear, essential, and verifiable improvements to ASEL.
- The ASEL should be a document that develops over time in response to emerging research and development. This has not been the case up to this point in time. Numerous industry funded R&D reports and AQIS investigations have made recommendations, either to general standards or to specific clauses in ASEL, which have not been considered and are not reflected in the Standards.
- Lack of communication and support from AQIS to drive regulatory change.
- Decision-making by committee members can be too slow to allow the flexibility that is required to satisfy all stakeholders.
- Suggest looking into the structure of the Animal Ethics Committees (AEC), recognized in State and Territory animal welfare legislation, which makes difficult ethical and scientific judgments at quite short notice in relation to research projects using animals. Mechanisms allow “emergencies” to be dealt with by an Executive that includes a welfare representative. The medical research industry operates in a very transparent and accountable way through oversight by AEC.

### *Comments from submissions about LESAG*

Comments received on the future function and role of LESAG include the following proposals:

- Reform of the group, including its membership, is required to facilitate constructive processes that allow for continuous improvement of ASEL and to ensure that the standards are clear, essential, verifiable and underpinned by sound scientific research.
- Adopt the industry and government working group structure for the ASEL review group.
- A revised ASEL review structure composed of two groups;
  - A technical group – ideally a relatively small group, composed of industry and Australian Government representatives, potentially with additional technical experts or state or territory agriculture department representatives.
  - A reference group – composed mainly of parties that have interests along the supply chain, but also those that are interested in the outcomes of the application of the regulation. The reference group would be used by a parent working group to conduct consultation on proposed changes and to help inform its recommendations to government.
- Develop an orderly system for introducing and implementing changes to the ASEL to avoid frequent disruptive changes and to provide certainty to exporters and to avoid the associated cost of frequent revisions.
- There should be no scope for the group to enter into policy debates or discussions unrelated to the continuous development of the standards.
- Clear set of objectives with clear government enunciation to the commitment of the livestock export industry.
- The structure must support the delivery of clear, essential, verifiable and workable improvements to the Standards.
- Technical information and research must be informed by export conditions relevant to Australian export processes and livestock species.
- Participants must have a working knowledge of the livestock export industry.



- Participants in technical decision making forums must only include those who are not compromised by any obligation or mandate to oppose the livestock export trade.
- Have frequent meetings, clear timelines and work plans for the group participants.
- Advisory groups must represent all the stakeholders with an interest in animal welfare.
- Clear and continuous communication between members of the group.
- Avoid unnecessary delay of decision-making process within government with a view to achieving better and quicker outcomes in the continuous improvement process.
- Recognition that if the ASEL are 'laws', even subordinate ones, then proper consultation needs to occur before changes are made.
- Be transparent and publically accountable.

### *Consideration of issues*

The Steering Committee considered the proposals from the submissions and LESAG's current format. During discussions the Steering Committee's main concerns were around the group becoming too large and the lack of activity the current group have been engaged in. Options were considered by the group on whether the ASEL Steering Committee becomes the new advisory group, whether LESAG have its terms of reference updated, or an ad hoc group is developed, meeting only when required. The Steering Committee agreed to the new terms of reference and modus operandi at **Appendix 3**.



## Part 6 – Next steps and conclusion of LESAG

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Upon endorsement by the Board of LESAG's terms of reference, the following steps will take place:

1. Membership will be confirmed in writing to members;
2. Membership and the new terms of reference will be published on the department's website; and
3. The first meeting will be scheduled with the group to provide advice on the draft AAWSEL, develop options for current issues of contention and discuss options for developing further scientific research to address gaps in the current knowledge.



## Appendixes

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**Appendix 1** – Draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock (Version 1.0)

**Appendix 2** – Terms of reference for a review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock and the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group

**Appendix 3** – Terms of reference for a new Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group



**Australian Government**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock (Version 1.0)**





## Appendix 2

### Terms of Reference for a Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock and the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group

#### Introduction

The Independent Review of Australia's Livestock Export Trade conducted by Mr Bill Farmer AO (the Farmer Review) was commissioned by the government to seek advice on the long term sustainability of the livestock export trade. The Government accepted all 14 recommendations of the Farmer Review. These included:

**Recommendation 1** - The Review recommends that the Australian Government expedite work with the states and territories to more clearly articulate respective roles and responsibilities for regulating the livestock export supply chain.

**Recommendation 6** - The Review recommends that a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) be undertaken.

- The review should *inter alia* examine the policy on export of sheep from southern ports to the Middle East in winter months, with a view to:
  - mitigate feedlot and shipboard losses in adverse weather conditions
  - mitigate losses from heat stress and inanition during the voyage.
- The review should also consider additional specific criteria, identified in recent industry-funded research, for selection of suitable livestock for export

**Recommendation 7** - The Review recommends that the role and function of the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group (LESAG) should be reviewed.

The Australian Government is committed to the live export industry and to delivering reforms that provide stability for the industry and thousands of regional jobs. The reforms to domestic and international supply chains ensure Australian livestock exported for slaughter are treated at or above internationally accepted animal welfare standards.

In response to the Farmer Review the government committed to undertake a comprehensive review of the ASEL to determine improvements that can be made to the standards, taking into account information and findings of the Farmer Review and recent research of relevance.

The department has established the Livestock Export Reform Program Implementation Board to oversee the implementation of these and other recommendations.

#### Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock

The ASEL outlines the basic animal health and welfare requirements along the livestock export chain including sourcing the animals, land transport, pre-export holding within Australia, vessel preparation and loading and during the voyage up until the point of disembarkation into the importing country.

For animals exported for the purposes of slaughter, after disembarkation the exporter must ensure the animals are handled and slaughtered in accordance with the exporter supply chain assurance system (ESCAS). The ESCAS must include the key elements of control, traceability and animal welfare. The exporter must comply with the ASEL and ESCAS requirements prior to the Australian Government granting permission to export.

#### Findings of the Farmer Review

The Farmer Review states that “standards need to be clear, essential (causally related with mortality or otherwise scientifically based), consistent and verifiable. Ongoing feedback and review processes need to be clarified and strengthened and roles and responsibilities of bodies engaged in monitoring and enforcement of ASEL and related welfare standards need to be clarified and formalised.”



## Review process

A high level Steering Committee will be established to examine the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, the role and function of the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group and to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of governments for regulating the livestock export supply chain, in line with recommendations 1, 6 and 7 of the Farmer Review.

The comprehensive review of Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock will include, but not be limited to:

- Expediting work with states and territories to more clearly articulate respective roles and responsibilities for regulating the livestock export supply chain;
- Examining the export of sheep from southern ports to the Middle East in winter months, with a view to mitigate feedlot and shipboard losses in adverse weather conditions and losses from heat stress and inanition during the voyage;
- Considering additional specific criteria, identified in recent industry-funded research, for selection of suitable livestock for export;
- Coordinating with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in its review of shipping standards and carriage of livestock under Marine Orders Part 43; and
- Reviewing the role and function of the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group.

### *Reporting Arrangements*

The Steering Committee will be established under the DAFF Livestock Export Reform Program Implementation Board. The Steering Committee will be chaired by the Chief Veterinary Officer and will comprise nominees from the Australian Veterinary Association, the Australian Livestock Exporter's Council and the RSPCA as well as representatives from each state and territory government with involvement in the livestock export trade.

The Steering Committee will engage directly with a broad based consultation group covering stakeholders in the livestock export chain including exporters, producer groups, industry organisations, livestock transporters and shippers, veterinarians, researchers, community and welfare groups and others. This group will provide expert comment and views to the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will be supported by a secretariat from within DAFF. The secretariat will coordinate the activities related to delivering the review of the ASEL and the role and function of the LESAG. The Steering Committee will report to the DAFF Livestock Export Reform Program Implementation Board, which will be responsible for endorsing any changes to the standards and seeking approval from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and endorsement through the Standing Council on Primary Industries.

### *Activities*

It is proposed that the review be conducted in two phases, the first covering the collation and review of available information and the views of stakeholders. The second phase will cover the drafting of revised standards, consultation and implementation.

#### *Phase 1 – Collection and review of information*

The DAFF secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee, will:

- collate, review and assess the scientific and technical literature relevant to all current standards and species covered by ASEL Version 2.3, including relevant industry funded research (undertaken by LiveCorp/MLA or any other body);
- review submissions to the Farmer Review that dealt with the Farmer Review's terms of reference, Item b), looking at the adequacy of the current standards, and the adequacy of LESAG;
- collate, review and assess all DAFF Biosecurity investigations into high mortality livestock shipments and related recommendations from 2006 onwards;



- review the current processes and procedures for reporting including arrangements for on-board accredited veterinarians and voyage/mortality reporting requirements;
- review the export of sheep from southern ports to the Middle East in winter months and develop recommendations;
- collate and review all legal advice provided to DAFF Biosecurity on the operation and interpretation of the ASEL;
- coordinate and liaise with AMSA in its review of shipping standards and carriage of livestock under Marine Orders Part 43;
- hold targeted consultations with key stakeholders on areas for improvement and issues that need to be addressed for an updated version of ASEL and LESAG (industry, exporters, registered premises operators, AQIS accredited veterinarians (AAVs), transporters and animal welfare groups); and
- present and discuss the findings and recommendations arising from these reviews with the Steering Committee.

#### *Phase 2 – Drafting, further consultation and implementation*

Based upon the findings/information developed under **Phase 1** and under the direction of the Steering Committee, the DAFF secretariat will:

- Prepare the initial and subsequent drafts of the revised standards;
- Prepare the initial and subsequent drafts of an implementation plan for the revised standards;
- Consult with government policy makers and regulators, industry representatives (including the livestock export industry technical working group) and animal welfare organisations on the content of the initial draft and the role of LESAG;
- Manage the broader consultation process on the draft standards;
- Work closely with the office of legislative drafting to seek advice on the preparation of draft regulations and in altering the name of the standards in the legislative orders;
- Manage the preparation of a regulation impact statement as required by the Office of Best Practice Regulation;
- Manage the public consultation process associated with the release of the draft regulation impact statement;
- Seek approval by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and endorsement through the Standing Council on Primary Industries, and
- Implement the revised standards through regulation.

In undertaking phase 2, the review will draw on the data and information gathered during phase 1, including any recommendations arising from the activities under phase 1. In addition, the review will take into account:

- the current ASEL Version 2.3 and previous function of LESAG;
- the respective roles and responsibilities of government, including Commonwealth, state and territory and local government in animal welfare and the livestock export trade;
- the views of government, industry (including the livestock export industry technical working group) and animal welfare organisations on changes to the ASEL; and
- recent developments in animal welfare, including the replacement of the Australian Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals with Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, in particular the Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals — Land Transport of Livestock.



## Appendix 3

### Terms of reference for a new Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group

#### *Terms of Reference*

1. To make recommendations to the Minister, through the Chair, on proposed changes to the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock* and consequential changes to the enabling legislation.
2. To review the performance of the Standards.
3. To identify issues/new research/scientific knowledge of relevance to the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock* and to seek independent scientific advice as necessary.
4. To ensure that the Standards are clear, essential, verifiable, underpinned by sound scientific research and able to be effectively implemented.

#### *Modus Operandi*

5. LESAG will operate by email, teleconference, out of session, through a secured site and meet in person as necessary.
6. DAFF will provide technical and secretariat support to LESAG.
7. DAFF will fund travel and accommodation costs. Member's agencies will be expected to contribute 'in-kind' salary for meetings.
8. LESAG is commissioned to operate for a 3 year period, commencing in 2013 through to 2016, followed by a formal review of the need for and future operation of the group.

#### *Guiding Principles*

9. To consult with stakeholders on proposed changes to the Standards before any recommendations are made to the Minister.
10. To ensure clear and regular communication, as appropriate between members of the group and its stakeholders.
11. To be transparent and accountable.
12. To ensure that decisions are made in a timely manner.
13. To ensure the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Export of Livestock* are consistent with other relevant standards.
14. LESAG will base its decisions on appropriate animal welfare outcomes, livestock management practices, sound scientific principles, relevant research findings, risk management and export chain performance.
15. In making decisions, LESAG shall endeavour to reach consensus, taking into account the views of all members. Where consensus cannot be reached, a majority decision will be made noting that a minority view will be recorded.

#### *Membership to the committee*

- Chair – DAFF
- Nominee – DAFF
- Nominee – Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
- Nominee – Australian Veterinary Association
- Nominee – RSPCA Australia
- Nominee – Independent Animal Welfare Expert
- Nominee – LiveCorp
- Nominee – Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- State and Territory Government Representatives – (NSW, NT, Qld, SA, Vic, WA)

Other participants may be invited by the Chair for particular agenda items.