Industry is committed to animal welfare

That’s why industry is investing in R&D, training, education and infrastructure across the supply chain to improve animal welfare outcomes. Exporters are also required to comply State and Federal Government animal welfare regulations including the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) which covers the preparation of livestock for the voyage from farm through to onboard care and the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) from discharge to point of processing. All vessels transporting livestock operate under strict Australian Maritime Safety Authority regulations.

ESCAS is delivering

The livestock export industry has embraced the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS), which makes livestock exporters responsible for meeting global animal welfare standards throughout the entire supply chain in overseas markets. Australia is the only nation to regulate international animal welfare standards from paddock to the point of processing.

What happens when the ESCAS is breached?

Where breaches of the ESCAS occur immediate action is taken to remedy the situation as soon as it is identified. The ESCAS stipulates penalties for breaches, including revoking export licences, applying additional conditions to licences or the stationing of animal welfare officers at facilities, through to criminal sanctions for the most serious offences.

Animals are well cared for during transport

In 2012, 99.26% of sheep and 99.85% of cattle exported by sea arrived at their destination fit and healthy.

Accredited stockmen and women care for our sheep and cattle during their journey overseas and Australian Government accredited veterinarians provide an extra level of care on vessels travelling on long-haul voyages. On board, all animals have room to move around and lie down, ready access to food and water and are placed in hospital pens if they need extra care.

Exporters must implement and comply with the detailed requirements of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock which cover all aspects of preparation of livestock for the voyage – from farm through to on-vessel management.

Stopping livestock exports will not improve animal welfare

Of the more than 100 countries exporting livestock, Australia is the only country regulating international animal welfare standards from paddock to the point of processing. The industry is positively influencing the actions of other countries by its presence in the market and investment in training & infrastructure.

Boxed meat is not a substitute for livestock

The supply of livestock and chilled or frozen meat often caters to distinct markets that are not interchangeable. Australian livestock is in demand due to logistical difficulties in delivering and storing meat, cultural/religious preferences and its price. In 2007 Australia could not meet the Middle East demand for live animals. The gap was not filled by Australian boxed meat but by live animals from Sudan, Somalia and Iran, countries that do not share Australia’s commitment to animal welfare.

The livestock export industry supports jobs and economic growth in Australia

A 2006 study into Australia’s livestock export trade found it contributed the following to our economy: 12,924 jobs, including more than 11,000 jobs in rural and regional areas; wages and salaries totalling $987 million annually; and $1.80 billion to GDP per annum.
Livestock exports – the facts

**Livestock export volumes and value**

In 2012:
- 2,279,622 sheep were exported from Australia, worth $277 million
- 617,301 cattle were exported from Australia, worth $606 million
- 61,880 goats were exported from Australia, worth $9 million

**The Australian livestock export industry underpins prices at home and contributes to competition and returns for producers**

A 2011 Centre for International Economics report showed that without livestock exports the saleyard price of lambs would have been 7.6% or 12 cents per kilogram lower.

Recently in Western Australia live shipments of sheep due for export were cancelled, processors were not able to accommodate the increased volumes and the immediate result was a dramatic drop in price.

**A majority of Australians do not oppose the livestock export trade**

Industry-commissioned Newspoll research in June 2012 showed that, given the choice, 82% of Australians believe the livestock export trade should be allowed to continue to countries that adhere to international standards for animal welfare, versus a total ban.

According to further studies conducted by Sexton Market Research in November 2012, findings showed that when prompted, two thirds of respondents supported continuing the live export trade, rather than banning it or phasing it out and, of these, three quarters held that opinion strongly.

### Australian live cattle exports by state

**2011**
- Queensland: 69.4,796 head (39.0%)
- NT: 38.0%
- WA: 36.9%
- Other: 1.6%

**2012**
- Queensland: 617,301 head (38.5%)
- NT: 38.5%
- WA: 36.5%
- Other: 6.4%

Source: ABS

### Australian live sheep exports by state

**2011**
- WA: 2,457,948 head (77.5%)
- SA: 11.1%
- Victoria: 6.5%
- NSW: 0.4%

**2012**
- WA: 2,279,622 head (77.5%)
- SA: 16.5%
- NT: 0.0%

Source: ABS

### Australian live goat exports by state

**2011**
- SA: 63,263 head (38.7%)
- NT: 1.0%
- NSW: 26.2%
- Victoria: 24.3%
- Queensland: 4.1%

**2012**
- SA: 61,880 head (38.7%)
- NT: 1.0%
- NSW: 62.2%
- Victoria: 0.1%
- Queensland: 4.1%