

10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**RE: HSRA Review**

To Whom it may concern,

With regards to the recommendations from the HSRA review committee, we support the validation and verification of the HSRA model as a means of forecasting risk on voyages to the Middle East and, indeed, on all long haul voyages where sheep or Bos Taurus cattle are to be carried from Southern Australia and transit the equator.

We do, however, hold strong concern for the extremely low WBT level that the committee is suggesting as a threshold past which heat stress in sheep is likely. The reason for this concern is that there have been hundreds of successful voyages completed at temperatures above this where animal welfare has not been compromised. This data has also been captured and the Department is in possession of over 20 years of voyage temperature data to validate this.

Furthermore, Department nominated Independent Observers have now travelled on several sheep voyages to the Middle East where temperatures have exceeded this level and anecdotal feedback has confirmed that livestock have acclimatised effectively at these higher temperatures of 30-33WBT. Given the enormity of the decisions being made by this committee for the sake of integrity of veracity supporting these recommendations they must be supported by detailed analysis of ALL data from the Department, that is, voyage temperature, mortality and observations as well as I/O reports.

The fact that these IO reports have been withheld from exporters, the committee and the community over this time, represents severe maladministration at best and we implore the committee demand that these are released in order to adequately inform any recommendations.

Sincerely,

