



Australian Government

# Independent Observer summary report on *MV Greyman Express*

## Cattle exported to Indonesia in November 2024

July 2025

### Voyage summary

Livestock: 3,690 cattle

Vessel: *MV Greyman Express*

Loading location and date: Townsville, from 8 to 9 November 2024

Vessel departure location and date: Townsville, 9 November 2024

Discharge location and dates: Jakarta, Indonesia, from 17 to 18 November 2024

Voyage length: 11 days

Independent Observer: Boarded at Townsville and remained onboard until completion of discharge.

Voyage mortality rate: 0.027% (1 mortality). This mortality is unlikely to be linked to any systemic failure by the exporter.

Notifiable mortality rate: 0.5%

### Summary of observations

This report summarises key observations of the implementation and effectiveness of exporter arrangements to ensure the health and welfare of livestock. The report has been approved by the observer who accompanied the voyage.

### Exporter documentation

The observer reported no issues regarding exporter documentation.

### Loading

Based on observations made during loading, the exporter arrangements relating to loading were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

The observer identified that:

- 1) There were minor adjustments made to pen stocking on day 2 of the voyage. After reshuffling of livestock, the observer identified that all pens observed were consistent with the load plan and the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) requirements. No adverse effects on animal welfare were observed as a result of this temporary overstocking.

### **Personnel**

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to personnel were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

### **Daily routine**

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to daily routine were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

### **Feed and water**

The observer identified that:

- 1) The observer noted a faulty nose bowl in a pen on day 5, against ASEL standard 5.6.3. The observer notified the stockperson who, in turn, notified the Chief Officer. The issue was rectified within thirty minutes. As a result of early intervention, no adverse effects on animal health and welfare were observed. There were no further issues observed in relation to access to water for the remainder of the voyage.

In relation to roughage, the observer reported that:

- 1) On days 1 and 2 of the voyage, cattle were not provided with roughage (chaff or hay) alongside pellets. The ASEL standard 5.3.7 requires that at least 1% of the required daily feed is chaff or hay. From day 3 until day 8, all cattle were provided roughage as chaff.
- 2) Due to a delay of 2 days to secure berth at port, only cattle in the hospital pens were fed chaff from day 9 until discharge as there was no chaff remaining on board. No adverse effects on animal health were observed as a result of chaff not being fed on these days.

### **Ventilation**

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to ventilation were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

The observer reported that:

- 1) On day 8, the voyage's highest wet bulb temperature of 31.3°C was recorded in the afternoon on deck 5. The decks cooled below this temperature after an hour and a half and there were no livestock observed as heat stressed for the duration of the voyage. No adverse health or welfare effects were observed as a result of the temperatures on livestock decks throughout the voyage.

### **Pen conditions**

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to pen conditions were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

**Health and welfare**

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements for managing livestock health and welfare were appropriate. The stockperson reported that:

- 1) During the voyage, 4 cattle were treated for conditions including lameness, respiratory disease and joint swelling. Livestock requiring treatment were moved to hospital pens.
- 2) One mortality occurred on this voyage. The animal was found deceased, and a postmortem performed, with the cause identified as gastrointestinal disease.

**Discharge**

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to discharge were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

**Department actions**

No adverse animal health and welfare outcomes arising from exporter arrangements were observed, and no regulatory action was taken for this voyage.

**Representative photographs of voyage****Day 2 Cattle in pen — high stocking density****Day 3 Cattle in pen — no issues identified****Day 6 Cattle in pen — no issues identified****Day 7 Cattle in pen — no issues identified****Day 8 Cattle in pen — no issues identified****Day 9 Cattle in pen — no issues identified**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2025

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.