



Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Policy

Live animal exports

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regulates the export of prescribed livestock, live animals and animal reproductive material in accordance with the *Export Control Act 2020* and the *Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021*.

Stakeholder communication and engagement activities are core functions of an effective regulator and support day-to-day interactions with regulated entities through to the development of fit-for-purpose operational policy and standards.

Purpose

This stakeholder communication and engagement policy describes the circumstances, practices and platforms we may use to engage with live animal export stakeholders.

Stakeholders

External stakeholders include but are not limited to:

- live animal exporters, including live animal reproductive material exporters
- registered establishment occupiers
- Accredited Veterinarians (AAVs)
- National and state peak export industry bodies
- National and state farming organisations
- National and state producer bodies
- producers and farmers
- agents for livestock, other live animals and reproductive material
- animal health bodies
- animal welfare groups
- community groups
- other Commonwealth and State government departments, including the Office of Best Practice Regulation
- other interested parties.

Communication and engagement channels

The department has a variety of targeted channels to communicate and engage with its stakeholders.

The department will use the most appropriate communication channels for the given intent, audience, messaging and desired outcomes.

Communication channels and engagement mechanisms can be formal, informal, interactive, educational, face to face, directional and/or advisory and may include:

- Export Advisory Notices (EANs) and Market Access Notices (MANs)
- round tables, forums, seminars, focus groups, working groups, consultations
- website updates
- webinars, teleconferences
- Have Your Say and other survey platforms
- direct correspondence such as emails
- education and training events
- social media including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn
- brochures, information packs, reports.

Engagement circumstances

Circumstances where the department engages with specific stakeholder groups are outlined at **Appendix A**.

The department will periodically evaluate its communication and engagement activities to determine whether they are effective and whether messages are being understood.

In all circumstances, the department protects information that is of a sensitive or confidential nature so as not to compromise any person, place or organisation as it deems necessary and in line with all relevant legislation.

All information obtained under, or in accordance with, the *Export Control Act 2020* is protected information and may only be used or disclosed in accordance with that Act.

Related material

- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment website
- *Export Control Act 2020*
- *Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021*
- Have Your Say website
- Live Animal Export Advisory Notices
- Live Animal Export Market Access Notices

Appendix A - Stakeholder Engagement Circumstances and Platforms

Circumstance	Primary stakeholder audience includes	Reason	Platforms that may be utilised
<p>Routine interactions with our regulated entities, on day-to-day operations.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - licence or approved arrangement assessments - Notice of Intention to export (NOI) assessments - Accredited Veterinarian (AAV) application assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live animal exporters • registered establishment occupiers • accredited veterinarians • other government departments 	<p>The department will communicate with individual stakeholders directly and in-confidence where a particular activity directly concerns their operations (such as licence or approved arrangement assessments).</p> <p>The department will not consult with other stakeholders on these day-to-day operations. The nature of the engagement is regulatory and appropriate to be between the regulator and the regulated entity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written correspondence (such as email or formal notices) • telephone and/or email notifications, instructions and advice
<p>Non-routine interactions with regulated entities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>This may include interactions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compliance activities - claims of Export Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) non-compliances - significant regulatory decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affected parties where appropriate 	<p>The department has different legal and decision-making responsibilities in respect of individual regulatory decisions, which are dependent on the issue.</p> <p>In relation to non-routine interactions, the department will consult directly and in confidence with affected regulated entities.</p> <p>Third parties and other stakeholders may provide a submission to the department for its consideration on any regulatory matter. However, the department will use its discretion when deciding whether to respond to, or action, any submission it receives as it deems necessary.</p> <p>The department will not seek input, consult or engage in active dialogue with third party stakeholders, in circumstances where a departmental employee has the statutory authority under relevant export legislation to make a decision.</p> <p>The department may use its discretion and legislative authority to publicly communicate major regulatory decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written correspondence (such as email or formal notices) • department website (for the purposes of stakeholder consultation, public notification or general information)

<p>Policy, guidelines and procedures development that affect export operations.</p> <p>For example: Policies to support compliance with the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, such as how to appropriately calculate voyage length and feed and water provisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live animal exporters • peak industry bodies • registered establishment occupiers • accredited veterinarians 	<p>Where policies affect export operations, stakeholders that are directly or indirectly impacted will be consulted to ensure any new or updated requirements are practical and fit for purpose, and appropriate guidance material is available.</p> <p>The department may not respond to submissions at its discretion and unless deemed necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written correspondence (such as email or formal notices) • feedback platforms • stakeholder working group meetings • via key representative industry bodies • department website and social media platforms • training sessions
<p>Standards, reviews, reforms and legislation.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Consultation on proposed amendments to export control legislation, such as changes to the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> and <i>Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021</i>.</p> <p>Live export standards and reviews, such as reviews and implementation of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all relevant stakeholders 	<p>The department will engage widely to ensure subject matter experts are engaged, stakeholders are given a platform to be heard, and relevant considerations are reviewed by the department.</p> <p>In relation to standards, reviews and reform work, the department will engage with all relevant stakeholders to ensure it obtains a wholistic and evidence-based understanding on a wide range of matters that may affect, and be affected by, any new or updated requirements.</p> <p>The department may not respond to submissions at its discretion and unless deemed necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written correspondence (such as email or formal notices) • Have Your Say, other survey and market research platforms • stakeholder working group meetings • via key representative and industry bodies • department website and social media platforms • events, seminars and other forums • training sessions