Australian Government

Independent Observer summary report on MV *Girolando Express*

Cattle exported to Indonesia in August 2026

November 2026

Voyage summary

Livestock: 3,472 cattle

Vessel: MV *Girolando Express*

Loading location and date: Darwin, 2 August 2026

Vessel departure location and date: Darwin, 3 August 2026

Discharge location and dates: Tanjung Priok, Indonesia, from 7 to 8 August 2026

Voyage length: 7 days

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

Voyage mortality rate: 0.00% (0 mortalities).

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 this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to loading were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

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

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

On day 6, the voyage's highest wet bulb temperature of 29.8°C was recorded during late afternoon on deck 4. The deck cooled below this temperature after 30 minutes and there were no livestock observed as heat stressed during this time. There were no health or welfare impacts observed due to the temperatures on livestock decks through 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
No systemic issues were observed.

The observer noted that there were no animal welfare issues identified during the voyage.

The stockperson reported that:

1) During the voyage, the stockperson reported 27 treatments for conditions including lameness, gastrointestinal disease, eye injury and respiratory disease. Livestock requiring treatment were moved to hospital pens when necessary.
2) No mortalities occurred on this voyage.

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 — no issues identified



Day 3 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 4 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 5 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 6 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 7 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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