



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

18 July 2019

Technical Advisory Group Secretariat
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
By Email: tacsecretariat@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretariat

Draft report into the review of standards for the export of livestock by air — Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock

Cattle Council of Australia (Cattle Council) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the draft report arising from Stage 2 of the review of standards for the export of livestock by air — Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL).

Cattle Council is the peak industry body representing Australian beef cattle producers and advocates on behalf of the broader cattle industry, including the families and communities whose livelihoods depend on the future of the livestock export industry. With over 70 per cent of all Australian cattle production exported to over 78 countries, at a value of A\$8 billion in 2017/18, it is vital that Australia has a regulatory framework that is able to foster further development of the live export beef industry through air transportation into the future.

The modernisation of livestock export supply chains helps secure the long-term viability of the trade and encourages producers and associated industry employees and businesses to invest in its future. Cattle Council continues to have a significant interest in the review of the ASEL and welcomes the opportunity to provide further input into this process.

Cattle Council supports the Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd (LiveCorp). In addition to the feedback provided by LiveCorp to the draft report, Cattle Council makes the following general comments.

Cattle Council was encouraged that the Reference Group was provided an opportunity to have input into refining the draft report prior to it being released publicly, and that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) undertaking the review have predominately taken into consideration the comments provided by the Reference Group prior to public release of the draft. Cattle Council was also heartened that a significant number of recommendations made in the Livecorp submission to the Stage 1 review, were included.

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AUSTRALIAN BEEF CATTLE PRODUCERS**

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There is little doubt that air transport provides exceptionally good animal welfare outcomes for livestock, due to the already entrenched culture and well-established and internationally recognised standards and regulations adhered to by air voyage exporters and imposed by airlines. Cattle Council is pleased that the TAC has recognised this good record, and in a number of cases have advocated for the retention of existing regulatory provisions.

In some cases, however, the TAC has recommended significantly increased regulatory requirements. For some of these recommendations, there may be substantial regulatory burden, unlikely to improve animal welfare outcomes, perversely adding administrative burden. Cattle Council maintains that unjustified additional requirements imposed on exporters air transportation, will disincentivise the growing use of air transportation for livestock.

On behalf of its members and the broader industry, Cattle Council is grateful for the opportunity to play an active, ongoing role in these important reforms. Should you have any questions regarding this submission please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McGoverne', is written on a light blue rectangular background.

John McGoverne
A/g Chief Executive Officer