



1st March 2019

Technical Reference Panel
Heat Stress Risk Assessment Review

HEAT STRESS RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE EXPORT OF SHEEP TO THE MIDDLE EAST

The Livestock and Rural Transport Association of Western Australia (Inc) (LRTAWA) was incorporated in 1980 with the main objective of promoting the development, safety and efficiency of rural transport, as well as promoting animal welfare. Our members are an integral part of the live export supply chain and work closely with all industry participants, including regulatory agencies, to continuously improve their operations and animal welfare.

The heat stress risk assessment (HSRA) approach being suggested for exported sheep has implications for the supply chain, specifically the viability of our members' businesses. The impact of the current uncertainty has already had a severe impact on some of our members to the extent their businesses are under significant financial pressure. In addition to the obvious animal welfare outcomes it is vitally important to get the regulatory balance right in the interests of small local businesses and communities. The LRTAWA is recommending the Expert Panel is cautious in adopting an assessment model or tool that has not been validated over the shoulder periods and applied to varying classes of sheep.

It is important that regulation is based on sound minimum standards and all participants in the supply chain drive best practise outcomes, including looking at on farm actions that can ensure the most susceptible sheep are not consigned to live export and that the preparation prior to transport, including curfewing, results in the best transport outcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to an outcome that achieves sustainable results for animals and rural businesses alike.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andy Jacob', is positioned below the text 'Yours faithfully'.

Andy Jacob
President