

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) Heat Stress Risk Assessment
review and recommendations

20 February 2019

Dear Technical Reference Panel members

I am writing to give my full support to all of the recommendations made in the review of the Heat Stress Risk Assessment (HSRA) model for live sheep export. I believe they will go some way towards reducing the further suffering of Australian sheep sent live to the Middle East.

I understand that realistically, the trade will not be stopped overnight. In the interim, my primary concern is that animals being exported are afforded the best treatment and conditions possible (not the best conditions economically viable). When implemented, the recommendations made by the Panel will significantly improve conditions for exported sheep.

In particular, the Panel's recommendation to move away from *mortality* as an indicator, and shift the focus to animal *welfare*, is a welcome and long overdue approach.

It is very encouraging that the Panel is acknowledging industry research in recommending a more holistic approach to the welfare of live animals in transit.

In addition to shifting the focus from the number of dead sheep to the welfare of living sheep, the Panel's recommendations to set the Wet Bulb Temperature (WBT) at 28°C, and incorporate factors other than heat when assessing risk – such as CO₂ and ammonia, and environmental conditions at the destination – will enable a more robust and accurate assessment of the likelihood of harm to the animals on board.

I fully support all eight recommendations made by the Panel.

It is my understanding that, if approved, these recommendations could be enforced this year, and I applaud the Panel's sense of urgency. These animals have suffered far too much and for far too long.

Katrina Love

Campaign Manager
Stop Live Exports

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