

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF STUD MERINO BREEDERS LIMITED

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30 October 2019

Department of Agriculture
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

RE: Middle East Sheep Exports Submission

On behalf of the Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders (AASMB) I am writing in support of the suspension of trade to the Middle East between the mid June to mid September period, until and if risk assessment data is established which indicates a review is required.

Live export to the Middle East is extremely important to the Sheep Industry Australia wide. Not only to our members in those states that export sheep to the Middle East ie Western Australia in particular, as well as in South Australia and to some extent Victoria, but also to the entire Industry supply chain across the country. This is because the purchase of Australian sheep by the Middle East creates greater competition for sheep within Australia, which can result in better prices for producers and more certainty around demand in the market place. Without this, the limited competition would most likely lead to a price drop, putting the Industry at risk of Australian producers moving away from sheep. Australia wide, this would have a devastating knock on effect to the entire supply chain and those whose livelihoods depend on it.

Australia produces a world class product that is in demand and we hope our producers can continue to have the opportunity to sell their sheep to the Middle East and other markets. AASBM fully supports the Industry and exporters working collaboratively with government to establish data for improving animal welfare outcomes, because the sustainability of this high quality Australian commodity is critical to our Industry.

Yours faithfully

Peter Meyer
President
The Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders Limited