




19 October 2018


Secretariat
Technical Reference Panel
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
18 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

To whom it concerns,


RE: Heat Stress Risk Assessment Review


 welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Heat Stress Risk Assessment (“HSRA”) review for livestock exported from Australia by voyage.

The  organisation representing the interests of its 8,000 farmer members from across , including farmers who produce livestock for the \$1.4 billion livestock export industry.


 supports the continuation of a sustainable live export industry that is both accountable and demonstrates positive animal welfare outcomes. Australia is a leader in animal welfare in the global live export industry as the only country that demands welfare is monitored and protected through the whole supply chain.

By improving our live export standards and remaining an active participant in the global trade Australia can influence and raise animal welfare standards across global market. In the event of Australia withdrawing from the live export trade, alternate countries will not replicate Australia’s commitment to high animal welfare standards and poorer welfare outcomes would occur within the global industry.

 is committed to ensuring that any amendments to the HSRA model are supported by scientific evidence and enhance animal welfare outcomes. To ensure animal welfare is furthered, any changes must be subject to a rigorous due-diligence process and not implemented prematurely, as this could adversely impact their effectiveness.

The  has provided a response to the specific areas raised in the HSRA Issues Paper to achieve these priorities.

- Mortality limit and heat stress threshold

 support requirements to achieve positive animal welfare outcomes on-board live export vessels. Appropriate preparation and planning is essential to ensuring high quality animal welfare outcomes are achieved during the voyage.

The current HSRA assesses whether a planned voyage has less than a 2 per cent chance of a 5 per cent mortality incident. The McCarthy Review recommended that industry transition to an approach that estimates the risk of heat stress to promote better animal welfare. The revised model would assess

