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Senator Glenn Sterle  
Chair, Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

On 13 February 2024 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing you said in relation to the live sheep export phase out policy

*“At budget estimates last year you said, 'We're not sure where we'll go from here if the sheep trade shuts with LiveCorp. The costs to run the organisation are a reasonable amount of our income. We will struggle to deliver our services and meet our requirements.' Now, that was in your annual report. I see that live sheep exports represents a very small percentage, and I don't have that number, of your income. Is that still your view, Mr Setter?”*

In response I said

*It is. Circa 76 per cent of all cattle ships that go out of Fremantle also have sheep on them as well. So the combined nature of the cattle and the sheep trades—about 260,000 cattle to the Middle East per year out of Fremantle are also linked with sheep. We're living off our reserves from pre-COVID, when demand was stronger and livestock were cheaper and people had a bit more confidence, at this stage. As much as sheep are a smaller part of our income, we still require that sheep income to survive, and the exporters need it as well.*

I wish to correct this answer. About 216,000 cattle to the Middle East per year out of Fremantle are also linked with sheep. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the errors in my answers and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Troy Setter  
Chair, Australian Livestock Export Corporation (LiveCorp)  
12 March 2024