

## **Budget Estimates – 25 May, 20223**

### **Senate Estimates Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

#### **Opening statement**

#### **MLA Chairman Alan Beckett**

---

Thank you for the opportunity to present today.

I would like to point to a couple of highlights from MLA from the last few months since we last appeared before this committee.

It's been a big year already. Earlier this month we had our Lambassador event in Melbourne, bringing chefs from around the world to learn more about lamb – both its sustainability and its quality. Next week we have a similar event for beef called Aussie Beef Mates, happening in northern NSW and Sydney.

Earlier this year, MLA enjoyed talking with the community at the Sydney Royal Show to help tell the positive story of Australian red meat.

In the last few months we have also launched major products and tools including a digitised greenhouse gas calculator and the Aussie Meat Trade Hub for our industry's international clients.

Finally, the industry also welcomes the news that the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement will come into force from midnight on May 31. This FTA has enormous potential for Australian livestock producers.

Thank you and we're happy to answer your questions.