

Thank you Chair, for allowing me to make a short opening statement.

My name is Troy Setter. I'm the Chair of LiveCorp.

First of all, let me introduce our CEO, Wayne Collier – it's his first time at Senate Estimates (*although he did appear at a biosecurity inquiry hearing last year*).

It's been a tough couple of years for the industry:

- High prices had a significant impact on volumes, although they're coming down now
 - 2022 calendar year:
 - 590,098 cattle
 - 524,908 sheep
 - 4,895 goats
 - 5,155 buffalo
- FMD and LSD in Indonesia
 - LiveCorp has a \$1.2mill Australian Government grant to support feedlots and small holders with vaccines, to create buffer zones

The 2022 average mortality rates on ships were the lowest on record:

- Cattle: 0.05%
 - 75% lower than 2000 / 25% of mortalities in 2000
- Sheep: 0.14%
 - 90% lower than 2000 / 10% of mortalities in 2000
 - 0.21% in 2021 and 0.71% in 2017
- Buffalo: 0.03%

As you may be aware, LiveCorp is the research body for the livestock export industry. We have a formal collaboration with Meat & Livestock Australia, which includes both research and in-market services to the industry.

I note that the in-market team provides support to industry, including training – we are not responsible for setting standards or 'policing' facilities. That's the role of the department.

In the past 12 months we've completed research on the value and contribution of the northern cattle trade, and the dairy cattle trade. The dairy project was a great collaboration between LiveCorp, MLA and Dairy Australia. We're currently working on a report on the value of the sheep trade.

Regarding the sheep phase out policy:

- ALEC is the industry body, and its role is to set policy. As the RDC, LiveCorp's role is to provide technical input and advice to support ALEC and industry in discussions with the department and government.
- At the request of government, we met with the consultation panel recently, and have a submission being prepared.

Our research to understand community sentiment around live exports is due to deliver its latest report shortly. Public sentiment has been moving in a positive direction across all three surveys conducted to date.

We have also remained strongly engaged in preparedness for the livestock export industry against exotic animal diseases and have been working with the department in this regard.

Thank you again, and I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.