

Thank you chair, for allowing me to make an opening statement.

My Name is Troy Setter and I am the chair of Live Corp, I am joined today by Wayne Collier the CEO of Live Corp.

I want to start by outlining LiveCorp's responsibilities, as the *exporter-owned* research and development corporation, and services body, for the livestock export industry.

According to our constitution, LiveCorp was established to “promote, protect and further the interests of the Australian livestock export industry in any lawful manner” and to “promote the export of Australian livestock to overseas countries”

However it is ALEC's and NFF's role to create policy and lobby and not Live Corps.

Given that role, it was great to see both cattle and sheep export volumes increase between 2022 and 2023 – with cattle up 6% and sheep up 30% year on year.

The resurgence in cattle numbers has continued this year, now that Australian livestock prices are more competitive – with exports up 20% to the end of April this year compared to the same period in 2022,

We've also had almost 50-thousand sheep go to Saudi Arabia in the past six months, since that trade re-opened. (*This ~8m live animal a year market has very*

*strong demand for Aus livestock*). I understand they've been well received and performed well, and there's strong demand for more. Shipboard mortality rates continued at or near record lows in 2023,

- With sheep mortality down 90% from 2000 until 2023 to 0.18% (Dept)
- With cattle mortality down 75% from 2000 to 2023 to 0.05%

Demand for Australian livestock was clearly evident at Beef Australia earlier this month, which Wayne and I both had the opportunity to attend.

We met with the Minister, Secretary and others in the room... as did our friends from GAPUSPINDO, the lot-feeders association in Indonesia.

There were more than 600 international delegates at Beef Australia with representatives from every continent apart from Antarctica, with plenty of demand and opportunities in both existing and new markets.

There was also a lot of interest at the live export trade stand, where we were showing off the virtual reality tool developed by the RD&E program to help with training in stunning techniques. This is a great example of how the industry is providing knowledge and practical assistance on the ground in our markets, to improve animal welfare outcomes.

Wayne's also been part of a recent delegation to Laos – which is interested in Australian cattle and understands the animal welfare requirements which would

have to be in place before that happened. Laos has also seen the animal welfare standards developed by Vietnam with help from the industry, and it is interested in working with industry and government to replicate that project.

A lot of great work is done via discussions at a global level to develop animal welfare standards. However, in my experience, adoption comes down to relationships. Live exports are built on business-to-business, commercial conversations, along with industry and government interaction around the trade... and that's what provides Australia with opportunities to support and influence practical changes and improvements in animal welfare outcomes in our markets.

In closing, I want to remind the committee of the *independent* community sentiment research *completed by CSIRO spin-off Voconiq*, which we've been doing since 2019. Repeated national surveys of more than 4,000 Australians have demonstrated growing confidence in the industry, including its animal welfare standards.

When asked directly whether "Australia should stop the export of live animals to overseas markets regardless of the impacts on Australian farmers" ... just 29% of participants agreed in 2023, and that was down from 35% in 2019.

Wayne and I are happy to take any questions.