

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 12**

**Division/Agency:** Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

**Topic:** Livestock from the Fremantle port

**Proof Hansard page:** 15

**Senator BACK asked:**

**Senator BACK:** Thanks. It is in regard to the terms of reference for a review of inspection regimes prior to the export of livestock from the Fremantle port. I understand it was undertaken following a recommendation of the Farmer review. Could you give us a brief overview of what was the background that caused Mr Farmer to make that recommendation?

**Dr Schipp:** During the preparation of the Farmer report, Mr Farmer visited Fremantle during preparation of sheep for live export and saw there a number of sheep that were not suitable for export and he was concerned at the number of those animals and so made a recommendation in his report that we look again at the inspection arrangements at Fremantle and compare those to the inspection arrangements at other ports.

**Senator BACK:** Do you know how many vessels Mr Farmer and/or his group oversaw in forming that recommendation?

**Mr Schipp:** One.

**Senator BACK:** Perhaps you could give us some indication as to what the vessel was and when, if you would.

**Mr Schipp:** Yes

**Answer:**

Mr Farmer, accompanied by Professor David Mellor and Dr Robin Vandergraaff, observed the loading of the MV Ocean Shearer at the Fremantle wharf on Tuesday 12 July 2011.

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**Question: 20**

**Division/Agency:** Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

**Topic:** CV of members of the steering committee on website

**Proof Hansard page:** 40

**Senator BACK asked:**

**CHAIR:** I welcome officers from biosecurity animal.

**Dr Schipp:** I would like to provide clarification on my previous comments. In my previous response to Senator Back I stated that the CVs of the members of the steering committee were on the website. They are not yet on the website. I apologise for that error. That information will be provided on notice. The information is being prepared to be placed on the website but is not yet on the website.

**Answer:**

The biographies of the Fremantle Review Steering Committee have been loaded onto the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) website. These biographies have been linked to the review terms of reference and are available at [daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/terms-of-reference/member\\_biographies](http://daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/terms-of-reference/member_biographies).

**Member biographies of the DAFF Fremantle Export Inspection Review Steering Committee**

- **Dr Mark Schipp (Australian Chief Veterinary Officer – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)**

Dr Mark Schipp was announced Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer on 5 October 2011. Prior to taking up this role Dr Schipp was the General Manager for Food Exports, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, responsible for delivery of inspection, verification and certification for exports of meat, fish, dairy and organic products from Australia.

Dr Schipp brings to this position experience as a vet on-farm and in abattoirs and as an agriculture counsellor in China and the Republic of Korea. More recently Dr Schipp has conducted a review into animal welfare infrastructure in Indonesia. Dr Schipp is also the Australian delegate to the World Animal Health Organisation – the OIE.

- **Dr Ray Batey (Australian Veterinary Association)**

Dr Ray Batey is a veterinarian with Austbreed Consulting and has more than 40 years experience in a wide range of professional activities, including animal health advice to farmers, animal owners, livestock or chemical companies and government agencies.

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Dr Batey was nominated as a representative on the steering committee by the Australian Veterinary Association, the professional organisation representing veterinarians across Australia.

- **Mr John Edwards - Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC)**

Mr Edwards is the Chairman of the Western Australian Livestock Exporters Association, a Director on ALEC, industry representative on the Live Export Industry Research and Development Committee and Sheep Export Industry Representative on the Live Exports Standards Advisory Group.

Mr Edwards started his 30 year involvement with live exports by working in export feedlots in Australia in the late 1970s and accompanying livestock cargos by sea to various Middle East markets. Since then Mr Edwards has worked in various capacities for several of Australia's largest livestock exporters and has represented two major Saudi Arabian livestock importers as their Australian representative.

Mr Edwards also lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for eight years building and managing large scale sheep and cattle feedlots for imported livestock. He has also spent time working in Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Yemen and Somalia.

Mr Edwards is currently the General Manager for Al Jabri Australia Pty Ltd, the Australian operations arm of one of Saudi Arabia's largest importers, Suleiman Al Jabri Livestock Trading Company.

- **Mr Colin Hyde - Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA)**

Mr Colin Hyde works for the DAFWA as Manager for Compliance for Agriculture and Food. He is based in Albany. In this role he has responsibility for administering parts of the Western Australia (WA) Animal Welfare Act.

Colin is an authorised animal welfare inspector under the WA Animal Welfare Act and is responsible for managing the department's animal welfare inspectors, including the inspectors present on the wharf and at the feedlot. His role includes investigating and prosecuting breaches of the Animal Welfare Act. Prior to joining DAFWA Mr Hyde had 26 years of experience in the zoo industry.

- **Dr Bidda Jones – Royal Society for Protection of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)**

Dr Bidda Jones joined the RSPCA as its first national scientist in 1996. She studied zoology at Sheffield University and has a PhD in animal behaviour from the University of London. Dr Jones began her career in animal welfare at RSPCA UK working to improve the welfare of laboratory primates. She now manages the RSPCA Australia science team which provides science-based advice to inform the RSPCA's activities across a broad

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range of areas. The welfare of animals during transport and export has been a focus of her work since the late 1990s.

Dr Jones is a member of the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Group. She has written a number of reports on the live export trade, including a 2006 review of the long distance transport of animals from Australia and a 2011 observational study of cattle slaughter in Indonesia which involved a detailed assessment of cattle welfare based on the footage subsequently made public in the ABC Four Corners program 'A Bloody Business'.