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LSS Welcomes Release of ESCAS Review

Livestock Shipping Services (LSS) welcomes the release of the Government's review of the livestock export industry's regulatory regime, the Export Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS). The *Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System Report* provides a detailed overview of the functioning of the ESCAS system since its implementation in 2011, and details the ongoing challenges faced by the live export sector as it continues to improve its practices going forward.

The review found that the live export industry has invested significant time, effort and funding into animal welfare projects and improving livestock export markets. It found that in most cases these measures have been effective in improving animal welfare outcomes in live export markets.

LSS Managing Director Ahmad Ghosheh said, "From its inception LSS has been committed to supporting the ESCAS system. The ESCAS system provides a framework within which the live export sector can monitor and improve the way livestock are transported and handled around the world. LSS has worked closely with the Department of Agriculture to improve its internal processes in order to be better able to identify and resolve animal welfare issues in LSS supply chains."

In accordance with ESCAS, LSS has worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, self-reported when issues have arisen, and has taken further actions to buttress the integrity of the ESCAS system and support animal welfare outcomes, such as:

- Voluntary suspension of exports to specific markets and facilities;
- Conducting detailed internal investigations into high risk supply chains;
- Deployment of additional consultants and staff to high risk markets to monitor compliance at ESCAS approved facilities;
- Delivering a best-practice animal welfare workshop for meat processing companies from across the Middle East in the lead up to the Eid Al-Adha Festival.

The Government's ESCAS review also notes that there have been issues around the removal of animals from approved facilities. LSS continues to monitor this issue and is committed to working with our partners to remain vigilant and seek ways to improve processes and supply chain integrity.

LSS continues to support the ESCAS system and is committed to working with the Australian Government, the Australian agricultural sector, the export industry and our international partners to improve animal welfare outcomes.

LSS is an Australian company based in Perth, Western Australia. Established in 1998, LSS delivers best practice animal live export services to a range of customers around the globe. LSS globally, has over 20 years' experience in the animal live export market, is a member of the Australian Live Export Council, Meat & Livestock Australia and Livecorp, and a corporate member and sponsor of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia. LSS employs 120 staff throughout Australia within its export business, farms, feedlots and abattoirs.

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