

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2013  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 198

**Division/Agency:** Live Animal Export Division

**Topic:** Livestock Export Market Protocols

**Proof Hansard page:** 36 (27/05/2013)

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Mr Glyde:** Senator, I understand the urgency. We understand the importance of opening up new markets and we understand the importance of making sure that those new markets will be able to meet the standards of the MOU and also ESCAS. There are a number of things that are required in order for trade to occur. First of all, there is an MOU to govern the health arrangements and the off-loading arrangements. The second is ESCAS, a supply chain assurance system, where an exporter can bring that forward. The third is that it has to be commercially viable. In order to ensure the long-run sustainability of the trade it really is important that our MOUs are reflective of the current circumstances we are in. We had an experience last year where an MOU did not work in the case of Bahrain, so that has caused us to think again. We do not want to have another animal welfare incident because an MOU ceased to exist. It is important for the long running of the industry for us to make sure that these MOUs are able to handle the circumstances that we now find ourselves in. We understand the significance and the urgency of getting these markets established and new arrangements put in place, and we are working as quickly as we can. There has been a process, which I am not sure if you are aware of where—

**Senator BOSWELL:** Can I just interrupt you, Mr Glyde? How many of these protocols have to be finalised?

**Mr Glyde:** There are a number, as I have just read through.

**Senator BOSWELL:** How long have they been on the table to be finalised?

**Mr Glyde:** I would have to take that on notice, and I would put one further point, Senator that negotiating MOUs also requires the cooperation and assistance of the other country to which we are exporting. The history of negotiating MOUs is usually quite drawn out particularly for new markets. It is not just an issue of DAFF having complete responsibility for this. We have to also come to agreements with the countries that we are seeking to export to. If I could just add one more point. There is a process that has been going on in terms of this review and the results of that review are currently being discussed with the industry. We have some feedback from the industry about the nature of the directions we might take with the MOUs and we are currently considering that.

**Answer:**

Since 2004, Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) on live animal trade have been signed with nine countries in the Middle East and Africa region (plus a MoU on cooperation on agricultural issues with Eritrea allowing for live animal shipments):

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**Question:** 198 (continued)

<b>MoU status</b>	<b>Country</b>
Countries with a signed MoU on live animal trade:	United Arab Emirates (2004) Jordan (2005) Kuwait (2005) Saudi Arabia (2005, revised 2009) Egypt (2006) Qatar (2007) Libya (2007) Sudan (2009) Bahrain (2009)
Country with a signed MoU on cooperation on agricultural issues, allowing for live animal shipments:	Eritrea (2005)
Countries with progressing MoU negotiations, despite some initial differences over MoU requirements:	Oman (commenced 2004) Iran (commenced 2005) Iraq (commenced 2009)
Countries with stalled MoU negotiations, which are unlikely to be finalised in the near future due to differing regulations and abilities to comply with health protocols and texts of the MoUs:	Israel (commenced 2004) Syria (commenced 2004) Lebanon (commenced 2010) Morocco (commenced 2010)

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**Question:** 199

**Division/Agency:** Live Animal Export Division

**Topic:** Signing of Last MoU/Health Protocol

**Proof Hansard page:** 37 (27/05/2013)

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Senator BOSWELL:** When was the last protocol signed?

**Mr Glyde:** Are you talking a memorandum of understanding or a health protocol?

**Senator BOSWELL:** Yes, both. When was the last agreement signed that we could export cattle?

**Mr Glyde:** I might ask Ms Evans.

**ACTING CHAIR:** Perhaps we could take that on notice. We are going to move to another senator for questions as soon as you complete your answer.

**Answer:**

1. The most recently signed health protocol was finalised with Solomon Islands in August 2012 and covers export of feeder cattle.
2. Most recent Memorandums of Understanding on trade in live animals were signed in 2009 with the Kingdom of Bahrain (sheep and cattle) and the Republic of Sudan (breeding cattle).

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**Question:** 200

**Division/Agency:** Live Animal Export Division  
**Topic:** Land Transport of Livestock for Export  
**Proof Hansard page:** 38-39 (27/05/2013)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

Thank you, Chair. I have some questions about the health of animals that are being moved through Australia for the live export trade. Have you received any complaints or concerns raised about instances of the overloading of animals on trucks, or when one level falls down onto another level and legs are broken, or any of the health issues in getting the animals to the port on the road transport?

**Mr Glyde:** I could perhaps start an answer on that. I have received emails from groups associated with loading at the Fremantle port that go to some issues with the claims being that there are some issues with whether or not the animals have been transported consistent with the Land Transport Standards. In terms of getting a complete and full answer to your question we probably have to take it on notice.

**Senator HEFFERNAN:** Sheep or cows?

**Mr Glyde:** Sheep are the ones I have received.

**Senator HEFFERNAN:** So we have had a collapsed deck, have we?

**Mr Glyde:** I am just saying I have received.

**Senator HEFFERNAN:** That does happen.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Chair, can the witness be allowed to answer the question, please?

**ACTING CHAIR:** Yes, if Senator Heffernan can refrain from interjections that would be helpful.

**Mr Glyde:** I do not have anything more to add to the original answer. I do not know whether or not anyone else has got anything more. If you want the specifics of what we have received we can provide that.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Is there any more detail? Could you take on notice what details you have received and how you are responding, how you are managing it? So as far as you know to date it is only concerning sheep going into Fremantle?

**Mr Glyde:** No, sorry, I was just saying that was my personal experience of information I have received, emails I have received from the various groups that operate around the Fremantle port. I would have to check the record to establish whether or not there have been other things that have been brought to DAFF's attention.

**Senator RHIANNON:** When these issues are brought to your attention, what do you do to address the problem?

**Mr Glyde:** In principle with any of these live animal issues it really comes down to making sure that it is being dealt with by the jurisdiction that has responsibility for those particular aspects. As both the minister and the secretary have already pointed out, the responsibility for animal welfare largely does lie with the state and territory governments. We would make sure that the information that we received would be referred to the relevant authorities. Obviously in issues to do with ESCAS, et cetera, we are the competent authority and we would deal with those through the investigations process that is outlined on our website.

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**Question:** 200 (continued)

**Senator RHIANNON:** In terms of what you are taking on notice, could you also include, if you have received complaints, who it has been referred to and any follow up you have done with the state jurisdictions?

**Mr Glyde:** Sure.

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) does receive complaints about the loading of livestock vessels, either to the DAFF officer on site during loading or in writing after the loading is complete. When a complaint is received, DAFF assesses the information provided to determine if non-compliance with regulatory requirements has occurred. If non-compliance is confirmed, regulatory action may be taken against the exporter.

The relevant state and territory authorities are responsible for domestic animal welfare including the welfare of animal during road transportation. Where DAFF officers witness animal welfare incidents they take steps to address the incident and refer the incident to the relevant State or Territory authority where required.

In 2012, DAFF issued an export advisory (<http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/export/live-animals/advice-notice/2012/2012-01>) in response to complaints about loading of livestock vessels. The notice reminds exporters of the requirement to meet the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) with specific reference to the standard that relates to loading animals in a manner that prevents injury and minimises stress. The notice refers specifically to the use of electric prodders and dogs.

In 2013 DAFF received complaints about the loading of cattle and sheep in Adelaide and Fremantle.

- A complaint was received about the presence of un-muzzled dog during the loading of a livestock vessel in Fremantle in November 2012. DAFF responded to the complainant advising that DAFF wrote to the relevant exporter about the incident and that corrective actions had been put in place by the exporter.
- Two complaints, including video footage, were received about alleged poor animal handling practices during the loading of cattle onto livestock vessels in Adelaide and Fremantle. The material provided did not provide sufficient evidence of a breach of the (ASEL). No regulatory action was taken, however DAFF wrote to the relevant exporter about the incident and the exporter replied outlining steps that had been taken to improve animal handling during loading.

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**Question:** 201

**Division/Agency:** Live Animal Export Division

**Topic:** ESCAS Countries

**Proof Hansard page:** 41 (27/05/2013)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Which countries fall within the ESCAS framework and for what animals?

**Answer:**

The Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) regulatory framework is now applied to all livestock export markets, except Egypt.

The ESCAS framework covers exports of cattle, sheep, goats, deer, buffalo and camelids (that is, camels, llamas, alpacas and vicunas) and includes the young of an animal of any of those kinds as defined in the *Export Control Act 1982*.

The countries which presently fall within the ESCAS framework are:

- Indonesia - since 6 July 2011.

Following implementation in Indonesia, ESCAS was rolled out in three tranches:

- Tranche 1 (since 1 March 2012): Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey.
- Tranche 2 (since 1 September 2012): Israel, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates.
- Tranche 3 (since 31 December 2012): Brunei, Mauritius, Russia, Vietnam, Pakistan and other markets.

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**Question:** 202

**Division/Agency:** Live Animal Export Division

**Topic:** Livestock Exports to Egypt/Hormone Implants

**Proof Hansard page:** 42 (27/05/2013)

**Senator BACK asked:**

**Senator BACK:** Is it the case that Egypt under its import provisions required that the hormone implants not be in the ears of Australian cattle, or were they silent on that?

**Ms Irwin:** I would have to check the details.

**Answer:**

The existing Memorandum of Understanding on the trade in live animals between Egypt and Australia, including the annex on health requirements, signed in September 2006, is silent on hormone growth promotants (HGPs).

In September 2012, the Egyptian government advised the Australian government and industry that cattle exported from Australia must not have been treated with HGPs.

Egypt has since been seeking an amendment to the annex on health requirements in the Memorandum of Understanding that cattle exported from Australia to Egypt be HGP free.

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**Question: 203**

**Division/Agency:** Live Animal Export Division

**Topic:** Live Exports

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. What is the current state of Australia's live export trade in terms of export income?
2. Has there been a reduction in export income and if so what do you attribute the change to?
3. Is there an increase in live export trade or a decrease?
  - a. If the trade in terms of increased or decreased competition varies between overseas markets please list which markets Australia's live exports are experiencing increased competition and which ones decreased competition?
4. What is the government's assessment of the Indonesian government's goal to reach 90 per cent self-sufficiency in beef production by 2014? What impact will this have on Australia's live export trade to that country? What advice is the government providing to Australian pastoralists and farmers to manage their cattle stock in response to the Indonesian government plans that if realised will result in a large reduction in the live export trade to Indonesia?
5. Have you received complaints about the overloading of animals on trucks, or the collapsing of levels within the trucks or any other animal health and welfare issues associated with road transporting animals to port?
6. When you receive such complaints what body are the complaints referred to? Do you undertake any follow up?
7. Which countries fall within the ESCAS framework and for what animals?
8. Please list all the countries Australia exports live animals to, which species are exported there, is the purpose for meat consumption, breeding stock or some other reason, which countries come under the ESCAS framework and what animals does this framework cover for exports to each country in this list?
9. Please give details of all current reported breaches of ESCAS in overseas markets that are under investigation.
10. Please give details of, and recently completed investigations in Pakistan, Egypt, Mauritius, Israel, Kuwait, Qatar, Indonesia, Turkey, and Malaysia including
  - a. When were the incidents reported?
  - b. When did the investigation commence?
  - c. When do you expect the investigation will conclude?
  - d. Which incidents have not yet had investigations initiated and why has the investigation not commenced?

Expected end dates?



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**Question:** 203 (continued)

**Answer:**

- 1-3. The value of live cattle and sheep exports over the first ten months of 2012–13 was \$622 million, comprised of: \$271 million from the export of cattle for feeder and slaughter purposes; \$190 million from the export of cattle for breeding; and \$161 million from the export of sheep.

The June 2013 edition of *Agricultural commodities*, published on the DAFF website provides further analysis.

4. Indonesia has a policy goal of achieving beef self sufficiency by 2014. The Indonesian Government also aims to increase consumption of red meat from 2kg per person per annum to 20kg per person per annum by 2025.

Australian cattle and beef producers contribute to achieving this goal by supplying live cattle for feeder/slaughter, breeding cattle to assist in building Indonesia's beef cattle herd, and by exporting boxed beef to Indonesia.

The Australian Government regularly engages with Australia's live export and meat industry on Indonesian policies affecting the trade, including quotas and issuance of import permits. Industry delegates are invited to attend several industry-government forums to discuss these issues, most notably the annual Australia-Indonesia Working Group on Agriculture, Food and Forestry Cooperation (WGAFFC) where import quotas are discussed

The Australian Government, in partnership with Australian industry, is committed to building closer ties to Indonesia through economic cooperation and taking a collaborative approach to the agricultural relationship and the live cattle trade. An excellent example of this is the Prime Minister's recently announced (5 July 2013) \$60 million over 10-years to support a range of activities to build Indonesia's red meat industry. He also announced the establishment of the Indonesia-Australia Red Meat and Cattle Forum to improve cooperation and communication between government and industry and recommend activities for funding.

Another excellent example of the relationship that exists between the two countries in this space is the IndoBeef project being led through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. This is a \$20 million dollar research for development project to support the domestic smallholder beef sector in Indonesia. Economic cooperation in agriculture is also key component of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

5. In relation to the question on complaints about livestock transport on trucks, please refer to the answer given to Question on Notice 200 (Live Animal Exports Division) from the 2013 May Budget Estimates Hearing.

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**Question:** 203 (continued)

6. In relation to the question on what body complaints are referred to, refer to the answer given to Question on Notice 200 (Live Animal Exports Division) from the 2013 May Budget Estimates Hearing.
  7. In relation to the question on ESCAS countries and species, please refer to the answer given to Question on Notice 201 (Live Animal Exports Division) from the 2013 May Budget Estimates Hearing.
  8. All the countries Australia exports livestock to, including the species and class in the 2012 calendar year is at **Attachment A**. In relation to the question on ESCAS countries and species, please refer to the answer given to Question on Notice 201 (Live Animal Exports Division) from the 2013 May Budget Estimates Hearing.
  9. Details on reported breaches of ESCAS that are under investigation are published on DAFF's website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/live-animals/livestock/compliance-and-investigations>.
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- a. Details on DAFF investigations are published on the DAFF website at:  
<http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/export/live-animals/livestock/compliance-and-investigations>.

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**Attachment A – Markets to which livestock from Australia was exported to (by species and class) for the calendar year 2012**

Market	Alpacas - Breeder	Buffalo - Breeder	Buffalo - Slaughter	Camels - Breeder	Cattle - Breeder	Cattle - Feeder	Cattle - Slaughter	Goats - Breeder	Goats - Slaughter	Sheep - Breeder	Sheep - Feeder	Sheep - Slaughter
Argentina										✓		
Bahrain												✓
Brazil								✓		✓		
Brunei Darussalam			✓				✓		✓			
China		✓			✓			✓		✓		
Egypt							✓					
Indonesia					✓	✓		✓				
Israel						✓					✓	
Japan					✓	✓						
Jordan												✓
Kazakhstan					✓							
Kuwait					✓		✓					✓
Libya							✓					
Malaysia					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mauritius							✓					✓
New Zealand	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓		
Oman												✓
Pakistan					✓							✓
Philippines					✓	✓				✓		
Qatar		✓		✓	✓		✓					✓

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**Attachment A – Markets to which livestock from Australia was exported to (by species and class) for the calendar year 2012**

Market	Alpacas - Breeder	Buffalo - Breeder	Buffalo - Slaughter	Camels - Breeder	Cattle - Breeder	Cattle - Feeder	Cattle - Slaughter	Goats - Breeder	Goats - Slaughter	Sheep - Breeder	Sheep - Feeder	Sheep - Slaughter
Russia					✓							
Saudi Arabia							✓					✓
Singapore												✓
South Africa										✓		
Sri Lanka					✓							
Thailand	✓				✓							
Turkey						✓	✓			✓		✓
UAE							✓					✓
USA								✓				
Uruguay										✓		
Vietnam					✓		✓					