



28 February 2023

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Regulatory Performance Section  
Live Animal Export Branch  
18 Marcus Clarke St  
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: LAE.ESCAS@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Live Animal Export Branch,

**Re: Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) Review – Stage 1 Discussion paper**

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) writes to you today in support of the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC) submission into Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) Review – Stage 1 Discussion Paper.

The NFF was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and the agriculture sector more broadly across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain, including live export. Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

The NFF strongly supports a sustainable live animal export industry that continues to deliver benefits to regional Australia and positive animal welfare outcomes in line with community expectations. Australia's live export trade is critical to many Australian farmers and regional communities and makes a significant contribution to the broader Australian economy.

Australian producers have long supported ESCAS as a means to provide confidence in the welfare outcomes being delivered by live export supply chains. It is critical that assurance and reporting functions continue to support genuine and sustainable welfare outcomes and seek to provide and report evidence-based and credible information in this regard. Any reforms should seek appropriately enhance these outcomes without posing unsustainable regulatory burden that in turn acts to hinder, not support, welfare outcomes.

We encourage the Department to consult closely with the live export industry via ALEC to determine appropriate reform items to ensure the system operates in a means that supports welfare outcomes and sustainable exports operations.

Yours sincerely,

