



Xavier  
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President

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Agriculture House  
70 Northbourne Avenue  
Canberra 2601

*RE: Inspector-General of Animal Welfare: Consultation Paper*

Dear Associate

NSW Farmers welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) consultation paper on the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare.

The NSW Farmers' is Australia's largest farming organisation, representing the interests of its farmer members. As diverse as our membership, our advocacy extends to the environment, biosecurity, animal welfare, water, economics, trade, and rural and regional affairs. Our purpose is to build a profitable and sustainable New South Wales farming sector through promoting productivity, risk management, and business continuity in individual farm enterprises.

NSW Farmers support the proposed role of the Inspector General of Animal Welfare and Live Exports (IGAWLE) in our collective ambition to continuously improve the live export industry. The role is critically targeted at the live export industry. The Inspector General should be focused on live export industry's performance against the Australian Standards for Export of Livestock (ASEL) and should embody independence and a practical understanding of the live export industry. NSW Farmers supports this apolitical and genuinely independent function of the IGAWLE that also aims to enhance the communities understanding and knowledge of the progress made and the high standards to which the live export industry operates. Enhancing accountability and transparency on the outcomes, rather than processes undertaken to carry out investigations should be prioritised. The IGAWLE must not be expanded further to regulate broader domestic animal welfare regulation as this is the primary responsibility of the state and territories. Recent amendments to ASEL (ASEL 3.0) have significantly increased the level of regulatory burden placed on the industry despite a long-term delivery rate of 99.94% (0.06% mortalities). Despite this and acknowledging the broader welfare considerations in live exports, the industry continues to work collaboratively with government in this regard.

We support the National Farmers Federation (NFF) comment that the industry remains confident in the work undertaken by the existing IGLAE and that the review functions undertaken by the Inspector General provide a valuable review of compliance systems and outcomes. This is necessary to support ongoing confidence in live export supply chains. Reports to parliament should be apolitical, balanced and provide an overall picture of the industry and where possible avoid specific and unresolved allegations of breaches of animal welfare standards and pending investigations and any sanctions or other action taken for breaches as this may impact the material assessment and outcome of these investigations. Reporting should not compromise the integrity of commercially sensitive information provided or sought by the Department or IGLAWE in confidence. This should be complemented by a clear and transparent process for reporting a complaint to interested parties.

**NSW Farmers' Association**

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The IGLAWE could further consider ways to increase the transparency of the progress made by the live export industry such as industry's response to critical measures, export deliveries against measurable standards and the value of live export to Australian agriculture and the economy as part of the reporting process to Parliament and the Department. This is necessary as part of bridging the gap between industry knowledge and the broader community's understanding of industry practices, reforms and progress made to improve animal welfare standards.

Finally, we support the NFF's comments on the merits of the current Inspector General continuing to the completion of their present term of appointment. Members support the appropriate additional resources being provided to the current IGLAE to carry additional functions that may be delegated to the office following the outcomes of this current review. Staff supporting the office of the IGLAWE office should be drawn from industry experts with extensive veterinary experience within the livestock industry. This will act to support continuity and avoid reporting disruption.

Should you seek further information, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Xavier Martin  
**President**