



2019-20 Annual Report

In November 2019 the Australian Government appointed Ross Carter as the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports. His role is to independently review the systems and processes that underpin the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's (department) regulation of livestock exports. The Inspector-General position was established as part of the government's response to the *Review of the Regulatory Capability and Culture of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Regulation of Live Animal Exports* (Moss Review).

In March 2020, the Inspector-General published his first report '[Monitoring and reporting during livestock export voyages](#)'. The report identified four initial focus areas for improvement; sanctions, transparency, preventing and mitigating harm and clarity of purpose. The report made 12 recommendations that were wholly or supported in principle by the department.

While conducting his first review, the Inspector-General attended over 70 stakeholder meetings to understand the issues. Stakeholders included government agencies, livestock exporters, peak body groups, animal welfare organisations, veterinarians and others who were interested in livestock exports. The review received 17 submissions from various stakeholders.

In March 2020, the Inspector-General commenced a review of the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS). The review examines the processes and systems that support decision-making regarding the ESCAS. It will also examine the effectiveness of the department's monitoring, reporting, compliance and enforcement capability and framework of ESCAS.

During the same month the Inspector-General also commenced a review of the processes and systems that support decision-making regarding the granting of livestock export permits and health certificates.

During a range of stakeholder discussions the effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness, transparency and stakeholder engagement during the process of issuing livestock export permits has been raised with the Inspector-General. The review will pay particular attention to the effectiveness of regulatory oversight by the department during the phases of the export process.

In April 2020, the Inspector-General commenced another review on the department's progress on implementing the Moss Review's recommendations. This review was started due to the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID19 pandemic. The restrictions severely limited the progress of the other two reviews. The progress on the Moss recommendations is primarily a desktop review which is not dependent on travel to engage stakeholders. The submission process for this reviews runs from 17 July to 31 August 2020.

For more information see [Work program](#) on the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports website.