



2020-21 Annual Report

Covid-19 has had a major impact on the work of the Inspector-General during the reporting period. The Inspector-General relies heavily on discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, and on observations made while undertaking site visits. While some site visits and face to face discussions were able to be undertaken during the year the inability to undertake face to face and on-ground consultation and observation has no doubt reduced the richness of input to reviews. For the review into ESCAS the inability to make in-country visits and observations was a major constraint.

In December 2020, the Inspector-General published the report on the review into the [‘Implementation of Moss Review recommendations’](#). The review found the department has made significant progress in a number of framework and foundational areas. However, there is significant further work to be done to realise the full intent of the Moss Review recommendations.

The review identified 3 challenges for the department. Firstly, the department’s IT systems do not support efficient operations, provide for streamlined industry interaction or support data and intelligence analytics. Secondly, the livestock animal exports regulatory function is still in transition with the dispersed functional model of the department presenting a major challenge to delivering an integrated regulatory model. Thirdly, the department needs to improve important aspects of its regulatory practice including effective compliance monitoring, and more actively using a proportionate regulatory response model to address non-compliance and poor performance. The report made 4 recommendations that were supported, or supported in principle, by the department.

While conducting this review, the Inspector-General conducted 7 specific stakeholder meetings to understand the issues, in addition to on-going conversations with a wide range of stakeholders. The Inspector-General also met with Mr Phil Moss AM and his review support team. Stakeholders included government agencies, livestock exporters, peak body groups, animal welfare organisations, veterinarians and others who were interested in livestock exports. The review received 13 submissions from various stakeholders.

In June 2021, the Inspector-General published a [‘Review of the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System’](#) (ESCAS). The review examined the processes and systems that support decision-making regarding the ESCAS. While the Inspector-General found that ESCAS had been a successful reform that had generally achieved its objectives, there were still areas of concern. The department’s underpinning technology does not facilitate accurate and easy ESCAS applications; loss of livestock control and traceability still occurs at low but chronic levels; the department needs to improve compliance monitoring; and the department needs to more actively use a proportionate regulatory response model. Clearly there are recurring themes emerging from each review.

While conducting this review, the Inspector-General attended 13 stakeholder meetings to understand the issues. The review report made 8 recommendations that were supported, or supported in principle, by the department.

During the year the Inspector-General provided regulatory practice perspectives to the Department’s Livestock Export Roundtable project meetings and Livestock Industry



Consultative meetings. The Inspector-General also met regularly with the department's Principle Regulatory Officer to provide perspectives on improved regulatory practice.

The Inspector-General commenced a review of the livestock export permit system processes.

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