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27th April 2018

To our valued producers and stakeholders,

Since the recent release of extremely distressing footage showing a high mortality incident on the *Awassi Express* in August 2017, Emanuel Exports has had nothing but support from the livestock industry and members of the community who know our company and our team. We are extremely grateful for this support.

Since the footage aired, much has been said about the livestock export trade and Emanuel Exports in particular, with many detractors evidently having little understanding of how our supply chains work.

In too many instances, the series of events leading to the tragic August 2017 voyage has been inaccurately reported and, as such, we have felt obliged to defend our company and its operations.

Blame for what occurred on that voyage has been levelled at Emanuel Exports by many, including the Federal Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud, and the WA Minister for Agriculture, Alannah MacTiernan. Many such criticisms are poorly informed and need to be put into context:

1. Emanuel is not the owner nor charterer of any vessel, and ownership of livestock transfers to the importer at the loading port.
2. For the August 2017 voyage, the Gulf Cooperation Council Union's embargo of Qatar meant the vessel was forced to discharge at Qatar first. Had the vessel made Kuwait its first port as planned and discharged a large portion of the consignment in the dry conditions there, then proceeded to Qatar with remaining sheep now spread across the pens, the tragedy would have been avoided.
3. Until Day 14 of the voyage the mortality was 300 head, or 0.47%. When the vessel became caught up in a catastrophic heat event over Days 15 and 16, extreme temperatures in certain parts of the vessel triggered the majority of mortalities.
4. Emanuel provided daily updates to DAWR, prior to 2% mortalities being reached, and confirming a "reportable mortality event" had taken place when 2% was exceeded.
5. Breeding age ewes were not loaded as an official part of the total cargo. Nonetheless a total of 11 ewes (of 63,804 sheep loaded) were recorded by the on-board vet as having lambs in transit. It is possible these were wrongly tagged as wethers at lamb marking and subsequently went through the pre-export process undetected. If commercial quantities of ewes are ever loaded, ASEL requires that they be pregnancy tested empty before delivery to quarantine.
6. DAWR formally investigated and released its findings on March 18 ([link](#)), concluding: "...sheep were prepared and transported in accordance with Export Control (Animals) Order 2004 and Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) V2.3 2011. The cause of the reportable mortality was heat stress."

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7. DAWR found that, despite the tragic result, there were no regulatory (ASEL) breaches, thus confirming that this one tragic voyage did not reflect typical outcomes for live sheep exports.
8. AMSA also performed an independent investigation of the *Awassi Express* and concluded “*all livestock services were operating satisfactorily during the voyage*”.
9. DAWR approved the subsequent *Awassi Express* shipment on the basis that an additional heat event management plan be implemented, including reducing stocking by 10% on ASEL’s standard. The mortality rate for the voyage was 0.52%, which is well below industry’s annual average.
10. Emanuel, in consultation with DAWR, has implemented additional heat risk management plans for 2018, including further de-stocking measures and confirmed its order of discharge, being Kuwait first.
11. Emanuel is fully compliant and cooperative with the regulator at all times and welcomes any investigation into its export activities in the interests of transparency and accountability.
12. With the exception of the August 2017 voyage, the *Awassi Express* has an enviable record of success and is a sought-after charter vessel. Of the 322,270 sheep it carried over five other voyages to the Gulf in 2017, a 99.42% delivery success rate was achieved.

Whilst acknowledging the distress the incident has caused, it is a sad indictment that commentators have given no credit to the officers and crew of the vessel, including the Australian veterinarian and stockmen, who all worked under very difficult circumstances and prevented further losses.

Emanuel supports ongoing improvement and reform to help ensure the success of every voyage. To assume the *Animals Australia* footage represents “business as usual” is completely wrong, and to seek to influence regulatory controls accordingly would be completely illogical and irresponsible.

As such, threats to restrict trade during the northern summer ignore the industry’s proven ability to manage risks and maintain welfare throughout the year. It also ignores the root causes of last year’s tragedy: a trade suspension isn’t the solution, because the northern summer isn’t the problem.

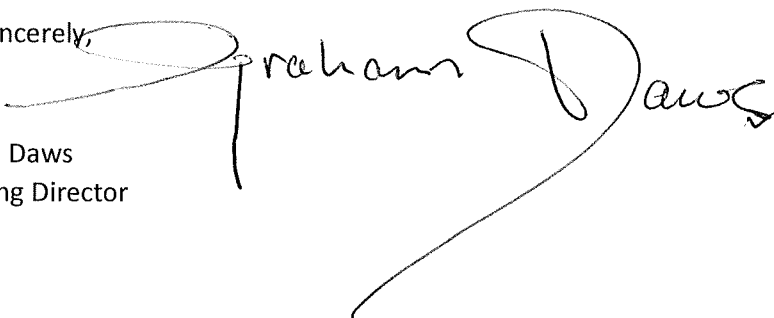
Our supply chains exist on the basis on delivering animals 12 months a year. Like northern cattle exports, ours is a trade which cannot simply be turned on and off. Any such suggestion is an affront to Australian farmers and to our customers, whose food security depends greatly on Australian sheep.

Those customers want animals to arrive in good health and condition. Delivering 100% of the cargo is our incentive for continued business in the Middle East which stretches back more than half a century.

We are proud of our industry – it is accountable, transparent and ethically sustainable. Welfare is paramount and we reject accusations that economics override our welfare obligations.

As exporters, it’s our job to deliver animals in the best possible condition with the least number of mortalities. The community, livestock producers and our customers demand nothing less.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Daws". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Graham Daws
Managing Director

Further information:

http://auslivestockexport.com/images/about-alec/Emanuel_General_Statement_05042018.pdf

http://auslivestockexport.com/images/about-alec/Statement_from_Emanuel_Exports_08_April_2018.pdf

http://auslivestockexport.com/images/about-alec/Statement_from_Emanuel_Exports_18_April_2018.pdf