



Department of  
Agriculture and Food



# National Livestock Export Industry Shipboard Performance Report 2008

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## **Executive summary**

The objective of this project was to summarise the performance of the livestock export industry in terms of mortality levels of sheep, cattle and goats exported by sea from Australia during 2008.

Industry stakeholders, government, animal welfare groups and the general public have a keen interest in monitoring performance in different sectors of the livestock export trade. The summary report provides a breakdown by species and major destinations.

The overall mortality rate for sheep during sea transport to all destinations during 2008 was 0.84% out of approximately 4.2 million sheep exported. This was less than the 0.97% mortality rate observed in 2007. The main port of loading was Fremantle (3.1 million sheep exported with mortality rate of 0.86%), followed by Portland (0.6 million sheep exported with mortality rate of 0.63%) and Adelaide (0.4 million sheep exported with mortality rate of 0.97%). A seasonal difference in mortality between the first and second half of the year was observed for the first time in hoggets and lambs.

The overall mortality rate among the 0.86 million cattle exported from Australia in 2008 was 0.12%. This was higher than the 0.10% mortality rate observed in 2007. The overall mortality rate on voyages to the Middle East/North Africa was 0.29% in 2008, a rise from 0.19% in 2007. The overall mortality rate on voyages to South-East Asia was 0.09%, similar to 2007. The highest overall mortality rate on a regional basis was 0.29% for exports to the Middle East/North Africa, while the lowest overall mortality rate was 0.06% for exports to North-East Asia.

The overall mortality rate among the 3,118 goats exported by sea from Australia in 2008 was 0.51%, which was less than the 0.69% observed in 2007. All goats exported by sea during 2008 went to South-East Asia.