Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# Livestock Export Sea Transport: An Australian Perspective

8 November 2023

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Animal Welfare Branch

# Overview

- Global Cattle and Sheep Trade
- Australia's Regulatory Framework
  - Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)
  - Export Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS)
- Challenges to welfare management in the livestock supply chain

# Global Cattle and Sheep Trade*

## Share in world cattle exports (%)

| Country | Value exported in 2022 (USD thousand) | Share in world exports (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Rest of the World | 2857471 | 43.3 |
| France | 1746978 | 19.7 |
| Canada | 1159933 | 13.1 |
| Australia | 879889 | 9.9 |
| Mexico | 483609 | 5.4 |
| USA | 453941 | 5.1 |
| Colombia | 310041 | 3.5 |
| Netherlands | 263269 | 3 |
| Spain | 249505 | 2.8 |
| Czech Republic | 242431 | 2.7 |
| New Zealand | 238090 | 2.7 |

## Share in world sheep exports (%)

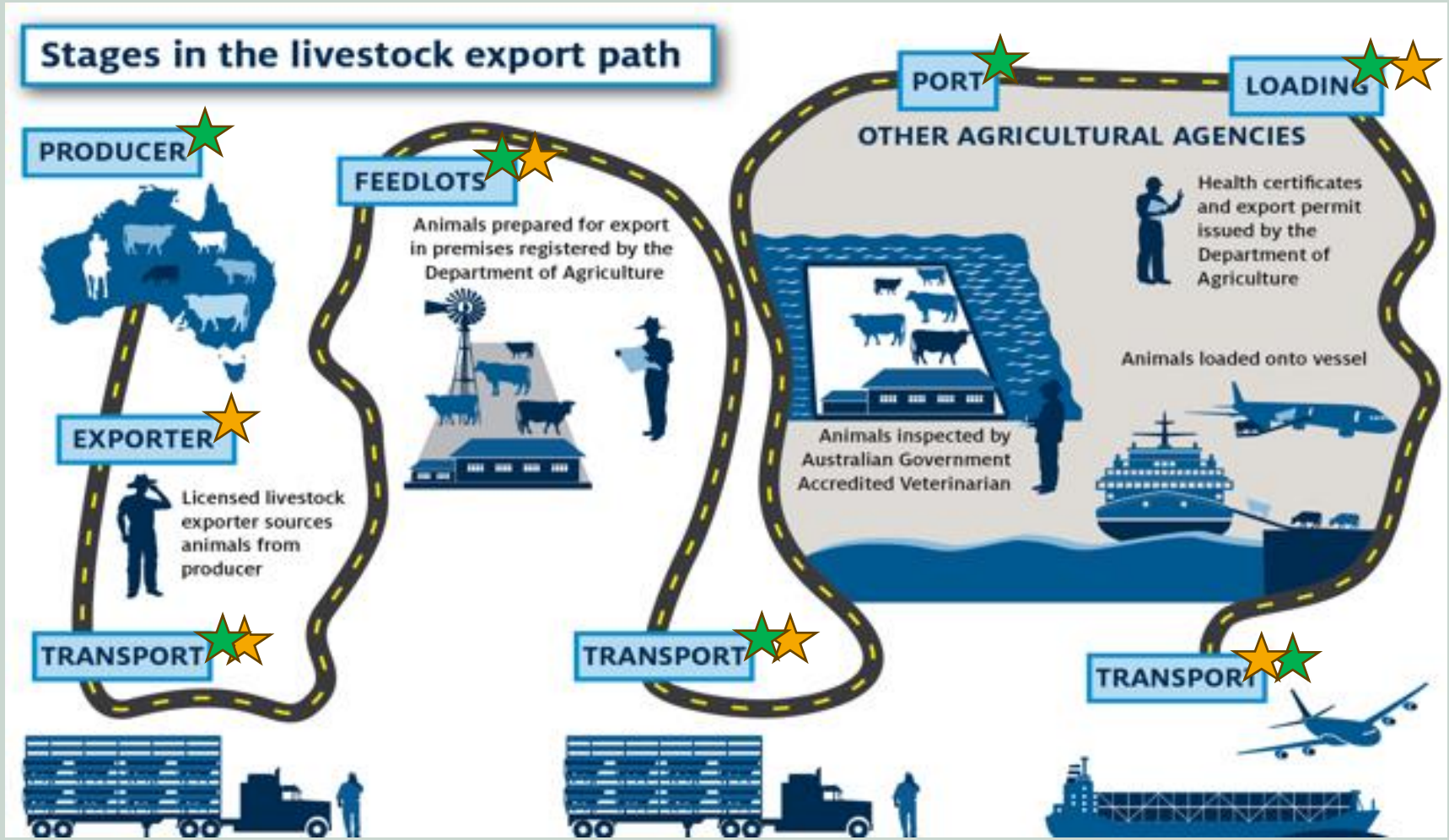
| Country | Value exported in 2022 (USD thousand) | Share in world exports (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Rest of the World | 1224185 | 19.1 |
| Romania | 278535 | 22.8 |
| Spain | 192875 | 15.8 |
| Jordan | 119140 | 9.7 |
| Portugal | 89120 | 7.3 |
| Türkiye | 64117 | 5.2 |
| Australia | 59684 | 4.9 |
| Hungary | 52709 | 4.3 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 47690 | 3.9 |
| France | 46501 | 3.8 |
| Namibia | 39247 | 3.2 |

Source: International Trade Centre 2022; https:intracen.org ; *includes Road, Sea and Air exports

# The Export Regulatory Framework

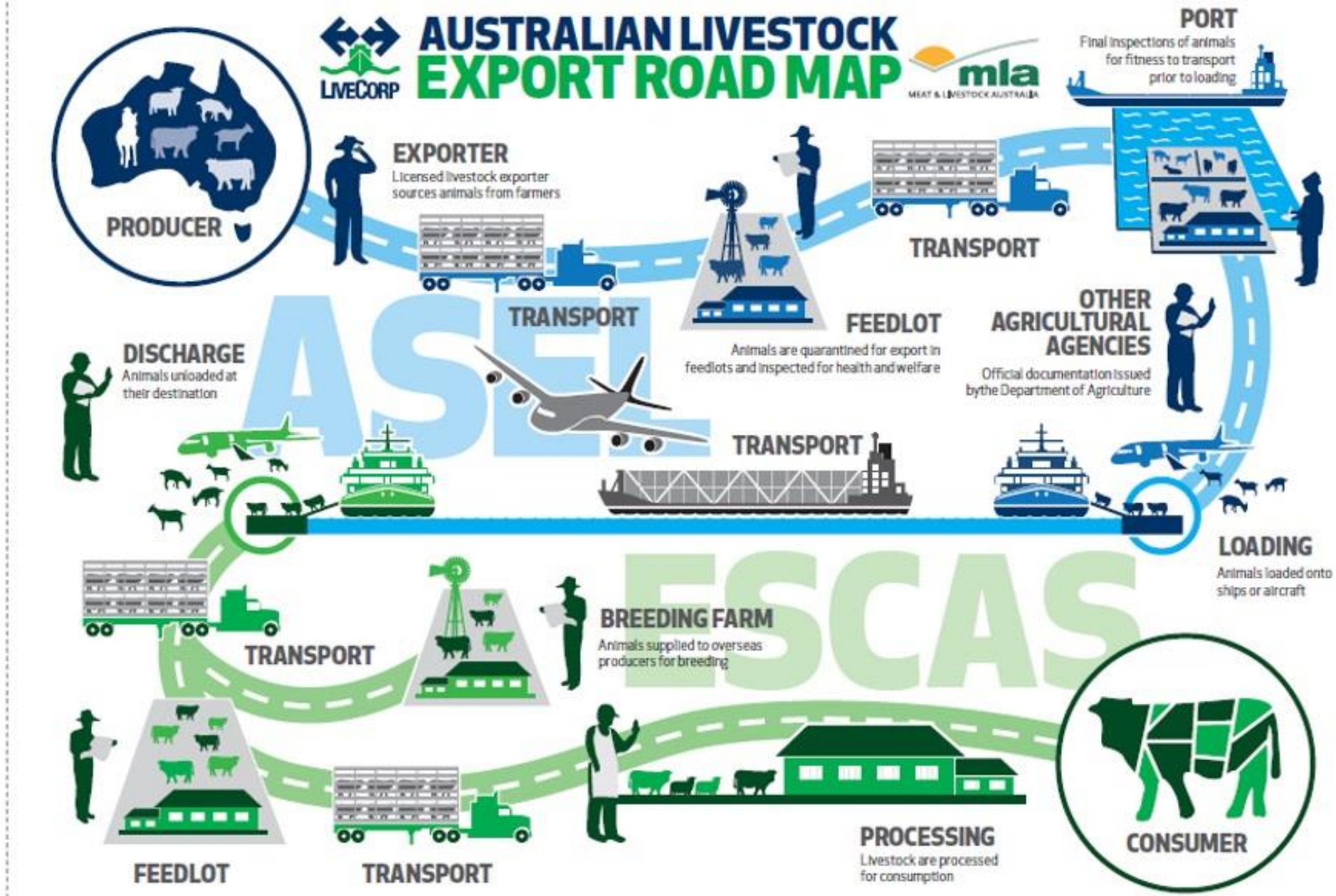
- Australian export legislation
  - Export Control Act 2020
    - ✓ Importing country requirements
  - Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021
    - ✓ The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)
    - ✓ The Export Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS)
- State and Territory regulations
- Marine Order 43–Cargo and cargo handling–livestock

# Livestock Export Process




Animal welfare in the export supply chain by

- DAFF ★
- other agencies★


LIVECORP
AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK
EXPORT ROAD MAP
mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA
PRODUCER
EXPORTER
Licensed livestock exporter sources animals from farmers
TRANSPORT
FEEDLOT
Animals are quarantined for export in feedlots and inspected for health and welfare
TRANSPORT
PORT
Final inspections of animals for fitness to transport prior to loading
OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES
Official documentation issued bythe Department of Agriculture
DISCHARGE
Animals unloaded at their destination
TRANSPORT
LOADING
Animals loaded onto ships or aircraft
ASEL
ESCAS
TRANSPORT
BREEDING FARM
Animals supplied to overseas producers for breeding
FEEDLOT
TRANSPORT
PROCESSING
Livestock are processed for consumption
CONSUMER

# The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock - ASEL

- Exporters must ensure Australia's minimum animal health and welfare conditions - outlined in the ASEL - are met for all export livestock
  - cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, deer, and camelids
  - throughout the export supply chain, sourcing to disembarkation

ASEL 3.2 (November 2021) is current and available at Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock - DAFF (agriculture.gov.au) and an ASEL app is available through Google Play at https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.livecorp.aselhandbook.app&hl=en&gl=US

# ASEL

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

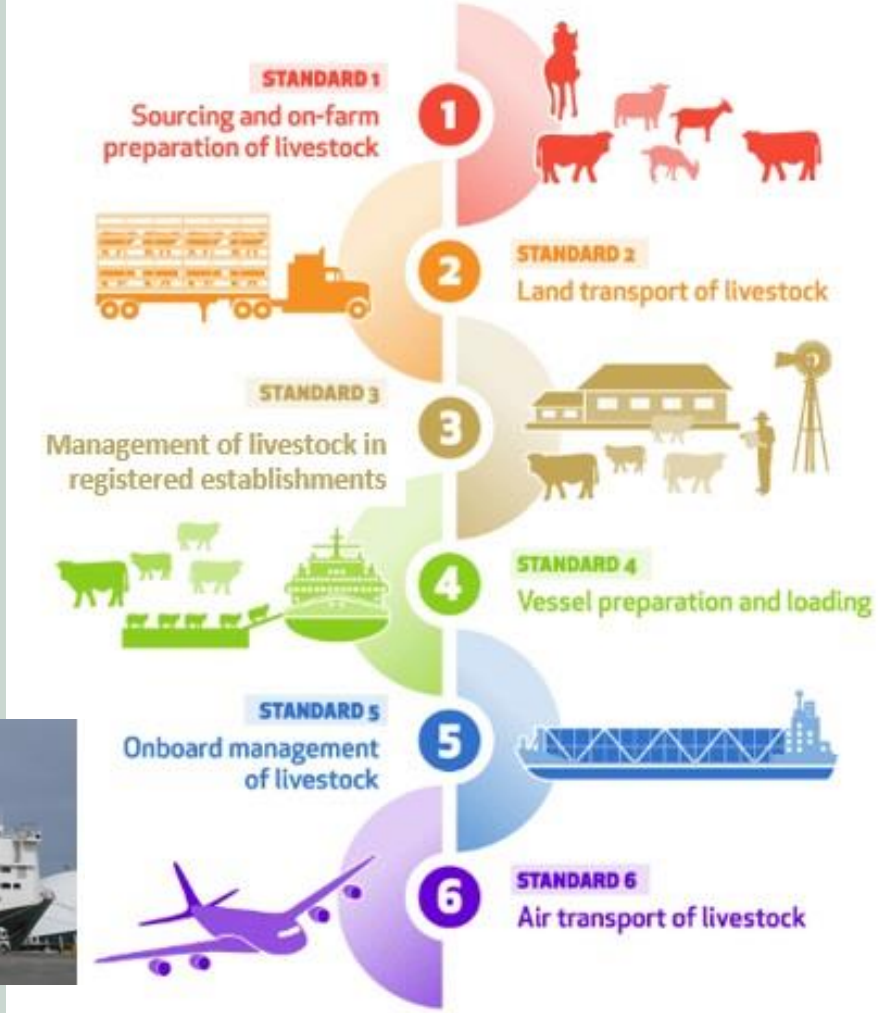
## Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 3.2

Australian Government

LIVECORP

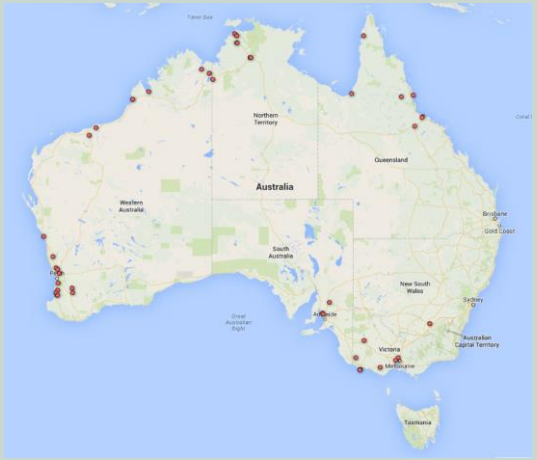
mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

## AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVESTOCK



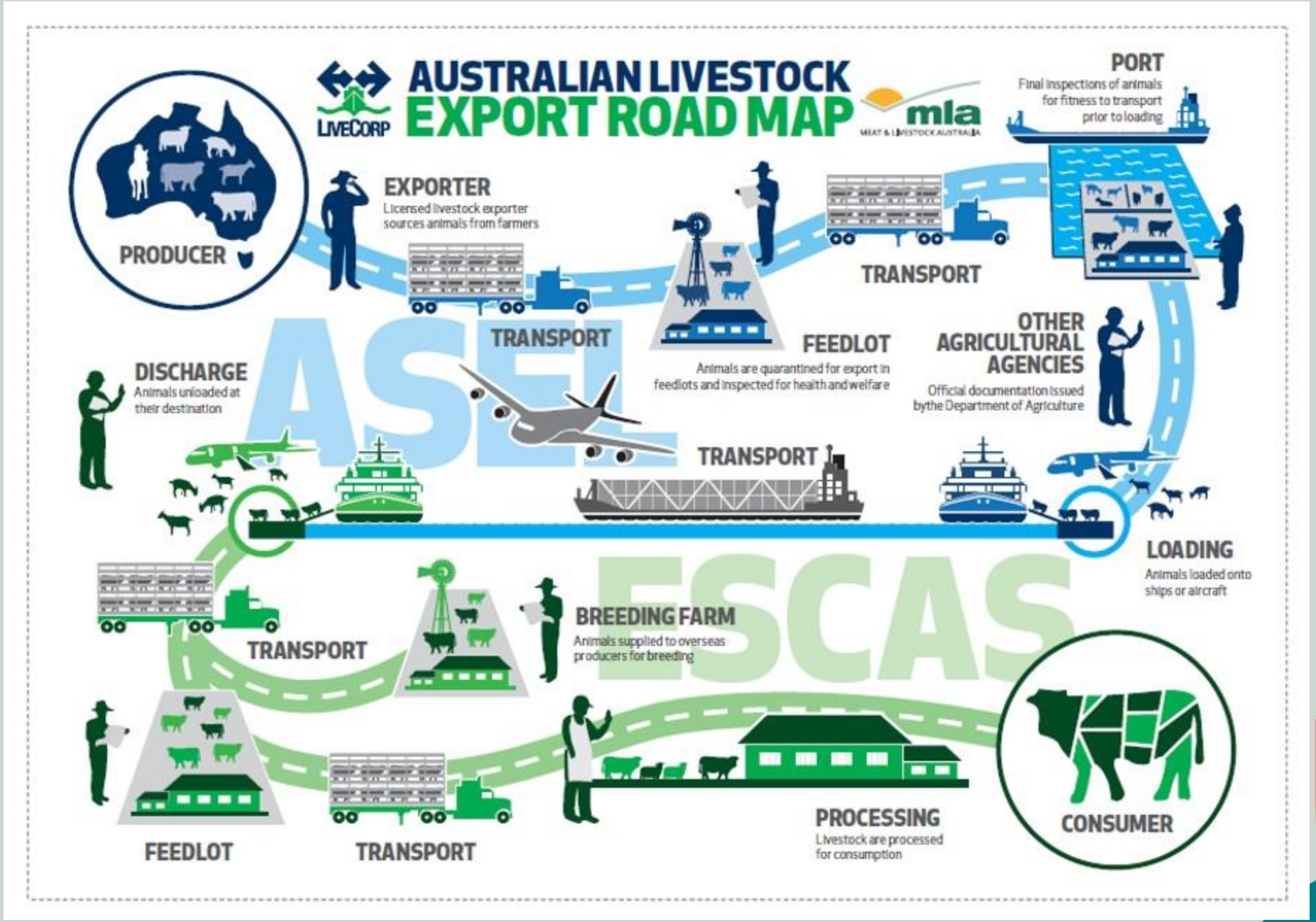
# Registered Establishments

- Livestock assembled/quarantined to meet importing country requirements and ASEL
- Preparation of livestock exported by sea
- Welfare Management
  - Accredited veterinarian oversees preparation and ensures animals meet ASEL and importing country requirements
  - A government veterinarian undertakes pre-export inspection
  - Animal records must be kept by the registered establishment
    - morbidities, treatments and mortalities
  - A mortality report for each consignment at the registered establishment must be provided to the department



# On board welfare management

- Fodder and minimum reserve fodder requirements
- Ad libitum access to water
- Bedding requirements
- Accredited stockperson and/or veterinarian must accompany each shipment
- Notifiable incidents must be reported to the department within 12 hours
- Reports on the health and welfare of the livestock, including animal welfare indicators and conditions on board, must be provided to the department
    - daily and end of voyage
- Minimum stock handlers to livestock ratios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ASEL
ESCAS

# Export Supply Chain Assurance System - ESCAS

To export feeder or slaughter livestock an exporter must

- apply to DAFF for approval of the supply chain in the importing country
- detail the supply chain including feedlots, depots and abattoirs
- ensure all livestock are handled and slaughtered in the importing country in accordance with the approved ESCAS

Information on ESCAS can be found at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/livestock/exporters/escas

# The 4 Principles of ESCAS

1. Control

2. Traceability

3. Animal Welfare

4. Auditing

# ESCAS non-compliance - actions

**Hypothetical example**

Reported non-compliance with ESCAS animal welfare standards for slaughter

**First step**

- Department would authenticate the evidence and investigate

**Possible departmental actions if evidence of non-compliance**

Proportional to the non-compliance, the department may

- Require an ESCAS assurance management plan
- Impose additional requirements
- Direct exporter to cease the supply of animals to facility or to the supply chain

# Welfare management challenges

- Accurate, relevant and objective reporting of animal welfare on the voyage
- Accurate, independent and objective reports on the welfare of livestock in importing countries
- Defining practical, reliable animal welfare indicators

# Addressing challenges

- DAFF checks and verifies export activities for compliance by:
  - Approving /licencing exporters and registered establishment operators
  - Regularly auditing exporters and registered establishments
  - Inspecting livestock (and documents) before export
  - Requiring accredited stockpersons and/or veterinarians on all vessels
  - Deploying independent (government) observers on some vessels
  - Reviewing reports required by ASEL, such as daily and end of voyage reports
  - Reviewing audit reports of ESCAS
  - Investigating/referring reports of non-compliances in the export chain
- DAFF and LiveCorp are investigating animal welfare indicator options and automated monitoring

# Thank You!
# Questions?