

Australian livestock export industry applauds Magistrate's ruling

Friday 8 February 2008

The Australian livestock export industry has applauded the decision handed down by Magistrate Crawford today clearing Emanuel Exports and its Directors of all charges.

The ruling is a positive outcome for Australia's livestock export industry and the thousands of farming families and communities in Western Australia and across Australia whose livelihoods depend on the trade.

The verdict also highlights the need for legislation to provide national standards and regulation for the handling and welfare of animals for export, and ensure legislation cannot be used to bring about a case such as this in the future.

Australian farmers and the livestock export industry care deeply about the welfare of animals. Improving animal welfare is a priority for the industry both out of the respect we have for animals and to ensure the sustainability of our trade and livelihood.

The national implications of the Emanuel case are so significant that the Australian Farmers' Fighting Fund (AFFF) provided the financial resources for the Emanuel defence.

We would like to further consider the Magistrate's reasons for this decision before making any additional comment.

-ENDS-

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