

Question on Notice
No. 618
Asked on 16 May 2018

Mrs D Frecklington asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will the Premier (a) advise the total value of Queensland's Live Exports in the last 3 financial years (reported separately) and (b) assure Queensland's primary producers that she will oppose any efforts to stop or interfere with Queensland's Live Export trade?

ANSWER:

(a) I table the following information on the value of Queensland's export of all live animals from 2014-15 to 2016-17:

Live animal	2014-15 AU\$	2015-16 AU\$	2016-17 AU\$
Total	307,186,655	323,037,390	307,153,335

(b) To a great extent, the live animal export debate is driven by incidents of the mistreatment of animals reported by the media. The mistreatment of animals clearly against the intent of national assurance systems, and should rightly be condemned.

Importantly, legislative coverage of animal welfare requirements for livestock exports is undertaken by the Federal Government. Australia is the only country with domestic laws that cover the treatment of live animals in transit from Australia to their destination, and for their life in the destination country.

The federal Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud, who has commissioned a number of reviews in the industry following the release of the distressing footage said "Everything is on the table. We need to make sure the regulator has the right tools, training and culture to make sure exporters do the right thing. This requires prosecutions and heavy penalties where breaches occur".

The recent reports of sheep on board a ship travelling to the Middle East, was from Western Australia. Queensland has not exported any sheep since 2014-15. Prior to that, only small quantities were exported to nearby Asian countries, such as Malaysia.

It has been the Queensland Government's stated position that an active and competitive cattle market benefits all members of the beef supply chain. Live cattle exports are an important market option for Queensland producers, particularly in the north.