

## STOP LIVE EXPORTS' COMMENTS ON THE INDEPENDENT OBSERVER PROGRAMME

Stop Live Exports (SLE) is a Western Australian community-led, non-profit organisation that advocates for the end of live animal exports from Australia. Our committee is made up of professionals and business owners from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

Western Australia is Australia's major live exporting State. However, 71% of Western Australians support the Federal Government's policy to phase out live sheep export by sea. The robustness and transparency of the Independent Observer Program (Program) are of critical importance, particularly given the high public interest in live exports by sea and opposition to it by the majority of Western Australians and even more Australians generally. 2

SLE has not prepared an independent submission regarding the Program but has had the benefit of reading the submission of RSPCA Australia regarding the Program and wishes it to be noted that it concurs with those submissions.

STOP LIVE EXPORTS FREMANTLE 3 APRIL 2024

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Independent polling commissioned by the RSPCA and conducted in May 2023 found 71% of Western Australians support the Federal Government's policy to phase out live sheep export by sea. This includes 72% of people in metropolitan areas, and 69% in rural and regional Western Australia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Independent polling, commissioned by (Greens) Senator Faruqi's office in June 2023, revealed that 85% of Australians support a phase-out of live sheep export.