



Australian Government

**Inspector-General of Animal Welfare
and Live Animal Exports**

2023-24 Annual Report

In December 2023, the Inspector-General commenced a review into the Independent Observer program. The review found that considerable progress has been made in the development and testing of monitoring equipment and associated data management to accurately identify individual animals and effectively check their health and welfare. However, this review also found that although there is evidence that observers have identified some significant issues, and there have been some worthwhile improvements as a result, there remain meaningful challenges and concerns with the IO program that require urgent attention. It is anticipated that the review report will be published in August 2024.

While conducting this review, the Inspector-General convened 16 specific stakeholder meetings to understand the issues, in addition to having on-going conversations with a wide range of stakeholders. Stakeholders included government agencies, livestock exporters, peak industry groups, animal welfare organisations, veterinarians and other individuals who are interested in livestock exports. The review received 13 submissions from various stakeholders.

In February 2024, the Inspector-General commenced a second review to examine the implementation of recommendations made by the previous Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports. The Inspector-General worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and also consulted with his predecessor. The review report is expected to be published in August 2024.

For more information see [Work program](#) on the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports website.