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MEDIA RELEASE – First shipment post moratorium

Rural Export and Trading (WA) Pty Ltd (RETWA), as the largest sheep exporter in Australia to the Middle East recently finished discharging the first vessel since the moratorium period ended.

RETWA fully supported the industry lead moratorium for June, July and August and the science behind this decision to ensure a sustainable trade.

The recent voyage loaded 54,390 sheep and 467 cattle. The vessel discharged in 3 ports, Kuwait, UAE and Qatar. The voyage took 21 days. During one of the discharge ports there was a minor 12-hour delay in discharge. Sheep panting scores ranged from 1-3 during the voyage and with wet bulb temperatures of 29-33 at times during the voyage.

The sheep had adapted well to voyage conditions and since discharge have acclimatised well in the importing market. During the voyage there was 0.24% mortalities in sheep and 0% in cattle consistent with voyages since RETWA licence was granted.

Since **RETWA** was granted an export licence late in 2018, the company has now exported over 768,500 sheep to the Middle Eastern countries of Kuwait, Qatar and UAE. These sheep have been delivered over 12 consignments. These consignments have had delivery success rates ranging from 99.54% - 99.89%. Shipments in May 2019 under new allometric stocking densities had discharged with success rates of 99.83% and 99.89%. This is a significant improvement on previous industry averages. In efforts to further improve voyage results, we are not only basing success on minimal mortalities but continue to work with industry on research into the best animal welfare and wellbeing measures to help deliver and verify good welfare outcomes on voyages.

Background

Rural Export and Trading WA Pty Ltd (RETWA) is the Australian subsidiary of Livestock Transport and Trading Company. LTTCo operates in Kuwait as Al Mawashi and supplies sheep to Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Oman. Since its establishment in 1974, KLTTC has been the world's largest live sheep transporter and in the past 45 years has shipped more than 80 million Australian live sheep to the region on its Australian Government approved fleet of vessels.

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