



# Contribution of **Australian Livestock Exports** to International Development Goals

There are multifaceted economic, social and environmental contributions of the Australian livestock export industry to sustainable development goals in destination countries.

A project funded by the Livestock Export RD&E Program developed a framework for assessing the benefits of the livestock export industry to destination countries, outlining the links back to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other high level sustainability frameworks.

This project has examined four of Australia’s important export destinations for their contribution to sustainable development goals. These markets are feeder cattle to Indonesia, slaughter cattle to Vietnam, slaughter sheep to Kuwait and dairy breeders to China. The results demonstrate that the Australian livestock export industry performs strongly in its contribution to sustainable development of destination nations. These contributions sit under the themes:



- Economic Development**
- Capacity Building**
- Food Security**
- Animal Health and Welfare**
- Waste Reduction, Responsible Production and Consumption**
- Partnerships for International Development**



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## Economic Development

Livestock exports generate economic activity in destination countries through:

- Infrastructure investment for slaughter, feeding and dairy.
- Employment in destination nations through the supply chain starting when livestock arrive.
- Generation of wealth, distributed amongst importers and suppliers.
- Indonesia (2024) \$929M wholesale revenue.
- Vietnam (2024) \$360M wholesale revenue.
- Kuwait (2024) \$52M wholesale revenue.
- China (2024) \$886M wholesale revenue.



## Capacity Building

Australia contributes to the education of people in destination countries. For example:

- Biosecurity, animal welfare and supply chain training for over 14,000 Indonesians since 2021.
- Managing abattoir training for 76 Vietnamese workers in 2018 – 2019.
- Indonesian student exchanges to the Northern Territory with over 180 participants since 2013.



## Food Security

Australian livestock exports boost food security by providing reliable, high-quality meat and dairy, fitting cultural needs. Examples:

- Indonesia (2024): 83,660 tonnes meat\* from feeder cattle, feeding 27.9M people.
- Vietnam (2024): 28,000 tonnes meat\* from cattle, feeding 3.1M people.
- Kuwait (2024): 5,919 tonnes meat\* from sheep, feeding 411K people.
- China: Over one million dairy cows exported now produce products, meeting demand and improving diets, feeding 35.7M people.

\*excluding offal and bone



## Animal Health and Welfare

Australia uses the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) to maintain high animal health and welfare standards in its livestock export industry. This includes:

- Improving animal handling and slaughter in importing countries through infrastructure investment and training.
- Australia also actively promotes animal health with its trading partners.
- Vietnam: ESCAS has led to investments in abattoirs, holding facilities, and stunning equipment, making stunning common and improving practices.
- Indonesia: Australian support has facilitated the vaccination of over 405,000 cattle against foot and mouth and lumpy skin diseases.



## Waste Reduction, Responsible Production and Consumption

Indonesian feedlots use plant material and food waste, contributing to a circular economy. This includes:

- The use of cassava peel silage, pineapple by-products, palm kernel extract and rice bran as feedstock.
- For slaughtering, destination country processing minimises waste through diversity of cuts, greater use of the carcass and a strong market for offal for human consumption. For example, there is a very popular Vietnamese dish called Pha Lau Bo made of offal.



## Partnerships for International Development

The livestock export industry builds strong international partnerships, boosting trade and supporting sustainable development.

- A key example is the 2013-2023 Indonesia–Australia Partnership on Food Security in the Red Meat and Cattle Sector, which aligned with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).
- Australia also forms formal alliances like free trade agreements (e.g., with China) and comprehensive strategic partnerships (e.g., with Vietnam, covering various sectors).
- Additionally, informal relationships, such as Australia's 60-year history of livestock exports to Kuwait, foster enduring ties.