

**DR MEHREEN
FARUQI**

SENATOR FOR NSW



Mr Grant Hehir
Auditor-General
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
CANBERRA ACT 2601

3/7/2019

Dear Mr Hehir

I am writing to you to request that the Australian National Audit Office conduct an examination of the Live Exports Branch of the Department of Agriculture in light of allegations of mismanagement and falsification of official records.

As you may be aware, the then Minister for Agriculture, Mr David Littleproud MP, commissioned 'The Independent Review of the Regulatory Capability and Culture of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Regulation of Live Animal Exports' in April 2018. The review was conducted by Mr Philip Moss AM and identified allegations made against seven individuals relating to the deliberate suppression of claims of poor animal welfare by departmental staff. A subsequent review into these claims, the Lawler Review, was unable to properly investigate these claims. As such, the claims remain uninvestigated, severely undermining public confidence in the Live Exports branch of the Department of Agriculture.

I am also aware of at least one former employee of the Live Exports branch that has raised allegations of mismanagement that have not been fully investigated by the Moss Review, the Lawler Review or by the Department.

I believe that an Auditor-General's investigation is required to assess the performance, systems and integrity of the Live Exports Branch. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my office for further information.

Kind Regards

Mehreen Faruqi

SENATOR FOR NSW

AUSTRALIAN GREENS SPOKESPERSON FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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**THE
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