Statement from Graham Daws, Emanuel Exports Managing Director:

"High mortality incidents like that which occurred in August 2017 on the Awassi Express are devastating.

Emanuel Exports has taken steps over more than six months to address the issues arising from our own extensive review of the voyage and the findings from the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources investigation.

This includes reduced stocking rates in summer up to 15 per cent beyond the ASEL benchmark. These measures are formal conditions embedded into our Approved Arrangements Standard Export Plans which require DAWR approval.

Australia's livestock export industry remains accountable and transparent and Emanuels continues to work in a fully cooperative manner with the regulator.

The viability of the live trade relies on the wellbeing of the animals in our care. When animal welfare is not upheld, we jeopardise the food security of our overseas customers, the future of a significant long-standing market for producers and the support of the community."

Background information:

- The Awassi Express has a good record of performance prior to and subsequent to the August 2017 voyage, having completed 29 voyages

- The blacklisting of Qatar by other GCC countries meant the Captain of the vessel had no choice other than to call Doha as first port (instead of Kuwait, as planned)

- Extreme heat and humidity was encountered in Doha. Such weather events are an anomaly and voyage records show the vast majority of deliveries during the hotter summer months each year are successful.

- DAWR's investigation of the August 2017 incident found that the sheep were prepared and transported in accordance with all regulations (ASEL) pertaining to the export of livestock from Australia. The following consignment of sheep to the Middle East using the same vessel recorded a mortality rate of 0.52 per cent

- Emanuels are audited by DAWR on a regular basis and instigated with DAWR substantial risk mitigation measures to be adopted for the 2018 northern summer.