GOATMEAT INDUSTRY UPDATE REPORT

Goat Industry Data Collation and Tracking

Quarter 2 2025–26

Summary

Supply, processing, and export levels rose to a new peak amid a period of high production, setting records in quarter two of 2025–26. Producers delivered 1.28 million goats to the processing sector, exceeding the previous quarterly record by over 140,000 head. Exporters traded 18,639 tonnes to 26 international destinations, 2,145 more tonnes than previously achieved.

The lift in production was driven by high turnoff levels in New South Wales (NSW) and increased supply from South Australia (SA) and Western Australia (WA). The additional supply was taken up by expanded processing in Victoria, SA and WA, coupled with sustained high throughput in NSW and Queensland. Record-breaking exports to the United States and increased demand from Canada, Taiwan, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, and Malaysia pushed the industry to its highest-ever quarterly export volume.

Supply and production

The turnoff of goats from Australian properties for processing reached over 1.28 million in the second quarter of 2025–26, the largest number ever supplied in a single quarter (DAFF, 2026). **Table 1** shows the breakdown of goats supplied by each state. Producers were motivated to supply goats by better prices, the opportunity to turn off lighter goats at a reduced minimum carcase weight (+8 kg cwt) and drying seasonal conditions in some regions. In quarter two of 2025–26, a lift in supply from NSW drove the record-breaking processing total, assisted by higher turnoff in SA and WA.

NSW producers supplied at least 871,714 goats during quarter two 2025–26, accounting for 70% of the goats supplied nationally (ISC, 2026). While comparing the supply total over time is complex due to changes in reporting accuracy, this is a high turnoff level compared to previously reported totals. The sustainability of these high turnoff levels will be best indicated by supply trends in the second half of 2025–2026, in conjunction with consideration of seasonal conditions, such as whether producers have adequate feed to retain goats.

South Australian producers supplied 78,569 goats during quarter two of 2025–26, marking it the third time in the 2025 calendar year that the number of goats supplied per quarter exceeded 78,000 head. Over 80,000 head were supplied in the third and fourth quarters of 2024–25. In comparison, in the five years before quarter three of 2024–25, the greatest number of goats supplied from SA in a quarter was 42,124 head (ISC, 2026). The most likely explanation for the high turnoff rates from SA during 2025 is the active reduction of grazing pressure in response to dry conditions. Annual rainfall across production regions ranged from below-average to very much below-average – deciles 1 to 3 (BOM, 2026).

Western Australian producers supplied 28,932 goats in quarter two of 2025–26, a substantial lift from the 3,561 goats supplied in the previous quarter (ISC, 2026). While supply from WA fluctuates seasonally with a peak expected in either quarter two or quarter three, this was the highest quarterly peak recorded since at least 2019–20.

Although Queensland production has demonstrated strong growth since 2019–20, supply has declined over the last two quarters from an all-time high of 348,936 head in the fourth quarter of 2024–25. In quarter two of 2025–26, Queensland producers supplied 257,784 goats to processors, a 20% reduction from the previous quarter (ISC, 2026). Queensland production regions experienced generally favourable seasonal conditions in 2025, with average to above-average rainfall (decile 4–9) across most areas. Therefore, unlike in some other regions, producers were less likely to have been pressured to reduce numbers due to declining feed supplies.

Table 1: Goats supplied for processing (quarter two 2025–26)

State	Head	% change (from quarter one 2025–26)
NSW	871,714	28
QLD	257,784	-20
SA	78,569	140
TAS	–	–
VIC	11,391	37
WA	28,932	712
Total	**1,248,390**	

Source: ISC, 2026

Note: Please refer to the GDCT data guide to understand the discrepancy between the number of goats supplied and the total processed (**Table 2**)

Processing

Australian abattoirs processed 1,289,646 goats in the second quarter of 2025–26, surpassing the previous record for a single quarter by over 100,000 head (**Table 2**; **Figure 1**). This is a milestone in processing capacity for the industry, especially considering that the usual decline in processing throughput during the Christmas break was still evident in the December figures. The sector has sustained an unprecedented level of goat processing. Since the fourth quarter of 2023–24, processing totals have exceeded 960,000 head, and for the last five consecutive quarters, the number of goats processed has remained above 1 million (DAFF, 2026a).

This record-breaking quarter two total was driven by a surge in Victorian processing. Victorian abattoirs processed an all-time high of 637,421 goats, a 26% increase from the previous quarter (**Table 2**). Prior to quarter two of 2025–26, Victorian processes had only slaughtered over 500,000 goats in a quarter on two occasions – quarter three in 2024–25 (553,756 head) and quarter one in 2025–26 (507,130 head).

While NSW and Queensland recorded small reductions in processing during the second quarter of 2025–26 compared to the first quarter, processing in these states remains consistently high relative to historical levels. The reduced throughput during the December holiday period was one factor that contributed to the lower quarterly total. In NSW, processors slaughtered 297,762 goats in the second quarter of 2025–26, a 2% reduction from the previous record total of 304,392 reported in the first quarter of 2025–26, but a 29% increase compared to the same period in 2024–25 (**Table 2**). Processing in Queensland was down 9% from the record-breaking total of 291,148 in the previous quarter, but up 11% from the same quarter in the 2024–25 financial year. Prior to quarter one of 2024–25, processing totals in Queensland or NSW had never exceeded 250,000 head. Since then, processing totals in each state have exceeded 250,000 head in five of the six quarters, including quarter two of 2025-26 (DAFF, 2026a).

Higher processing totals in SA and WA also contributed to the high quarterly total. The number of goats processed in South Australia exceeded 70,100 goats for the first time since the third quarter of 2021–22, nearly doubling the state's processing total from the previous quarter.

Western Australian processors slaughtered 19,757 goats in quarter two of 2025–26, a substantial increase from the 2,475 goats processed in the first quarter of 2025–26 (DAFF, 2026a). While South Australian processing totals fluctuate widely, quarter two of 2025–26 is the first time they have exceeded 70,000 head since the third quarter of 2021–22 (DAFF, 2026a). Hence, the upswing in SA was somewhat outside the normal range over the past few years, indicating that monitoring South Australian processing totals in upcoming quarters is warranted.

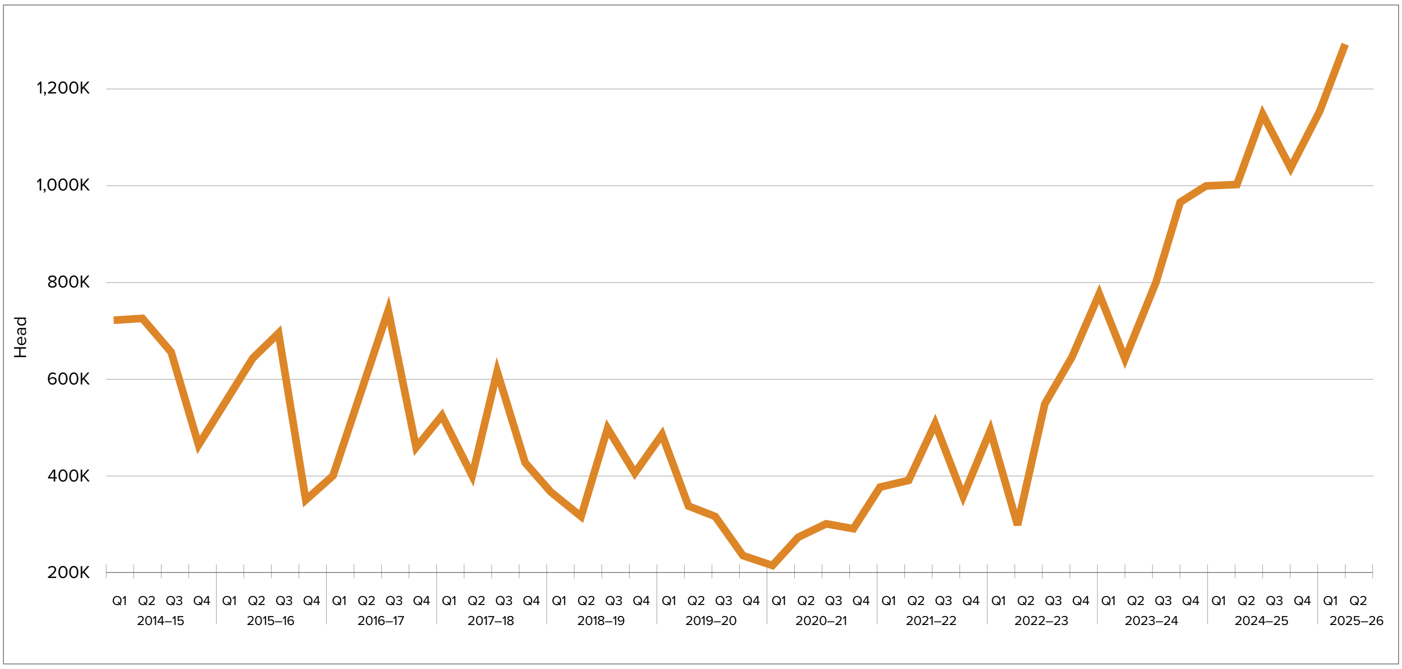
The lift in processing in WA is within the normal seasonal variations that occur in the state's production, due to the preference for harvesting goats during the warmer months of either quarter two or quarter three. Since 2016–17, processing totals in WA have fluctuated between approximately 1,000 and 20,000 head, with no distinct upward or downward trend.

Table 2: Goats processed (quarter two 2025–26)

State	Head	% change (from quarter one 2025–26)	% change (from quarter two 2024–25)
NSW	297,762	-2	29
QLD	263,678	-9	11
SA	71,026	97	100
TAS	2	–	–
VIC	637,421	26	32
WA	19,757	698	34
Total	**1,289,646**	**13**	**29**

Data source: DAFF, 2026a

Figure 1: Goats processed per quarter (Q1 2014–15 to Q2 2025–26)



Price

In the second quarter of 2025–26, Meat & Livestock Australia did not report the average over-the-hook price due to insufficient reporting by processors. The latest available over-the-hook price reported in November 2025 was 557 c/kg cwt (MLA, 2026). In quarter two of 2025–26, the average export price was 881 c/kg, a substantial rise from 783 c/kg in the previous quarter.

Export

Export markets absorbed the high production level, with a remarkable 18,639 tonnes of goatmeat exported from Australia to 26 trade destinations in the second quarter of 2025–26 (DAFF, 2026b). This not only broke the record for the highest volume in a single quarter, set in the first quarter of 2025–26, but it also surpassed it by 2,970 tonnes, or 29% (DAFF, 2026b). The value of exports during the quarter totalled $161 million (S&P Global 2026). Table 3 shows the volumes exported to Australia's top ten trade destinations.

This increase in export volume was driven primarily by record-breaking imports by the United States. It was also supported by strong exports to South Korea and increased supply to Canada, Taiwan, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, and Malaysia compared to both the previous quarter and the same period in 2024–25 (Table 3). However, export volumes to China, Trinidad & Tobago, and Japan were lower in the second quarter of 2025–26 than in both the previous quarter and the same period in 2024–25 (DAFF 2026b).

In the first quarter of 2025–26, exports to the United States totalled 8,239 tonnes, exceeding any previous volume shipped to this key market (Figure 2). That record volume was surpassed in the second quarter, with 10,654 tonnes shipped to the United States (DAFF, 2026b).

South Korea's demand for Australian goatmeat in 2025–26 has also exceeded previous levels, with imports above 3,100 tonnes for both the first and second quarters (**Figure 3**). Before this financial year, the highest volume exported to this growing market was 2,361 tonnes (DAFF, 2026b).

In quarter two of 2025–26, exports to China fell to 453 tonnes, a 56% decrease from quarter one in 2025–26 and an 84% reduction from the same period in 2024–25 (**Figure 4**). The market is price-sensitive, and the price increase is likely affecting demand.

Additionally, during the second quarter of 2025–26, 9,359 goats were airfreighted live to overseas destinations (DAFF, 2026c), including Malaysia (8,800 head), the Philippines (371) and Sarawak (188 head).

Table 3: Goatmeat exported (quarter two 2025–26)

Destination	Tonnes	% change (from quarter one 2025–26)	% change (from quarter two 2024–25)
USA	10,654	29	48
South Korea	3,134	0	34
Canada	1,836	131	159
Taiwan	981	67	9
China	454	-56	-84
Trinidad & Tobago	345	-30	-18
Jamaica	293	56	131
United Kingdom	259	279	1050
Japan	153	-31	-29
Malaysia	152	1420	0

Data source: DAFF, 2026b

Figure 2: Goatmeat supplied to the United States by FY quarter (Source: DAFF, 2025b)

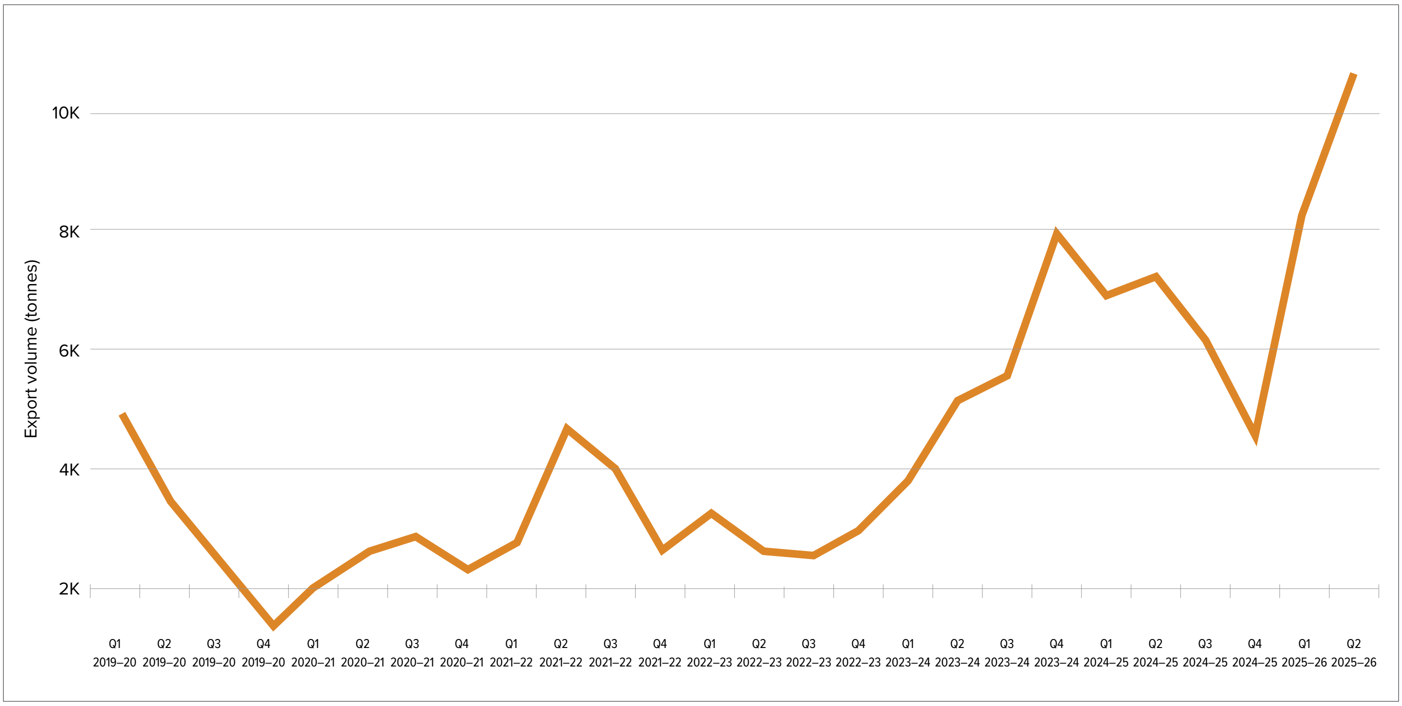


Figure 3: Goatmeat supplied to South Korea by FY quarter (Source: DAFF, 2025b)

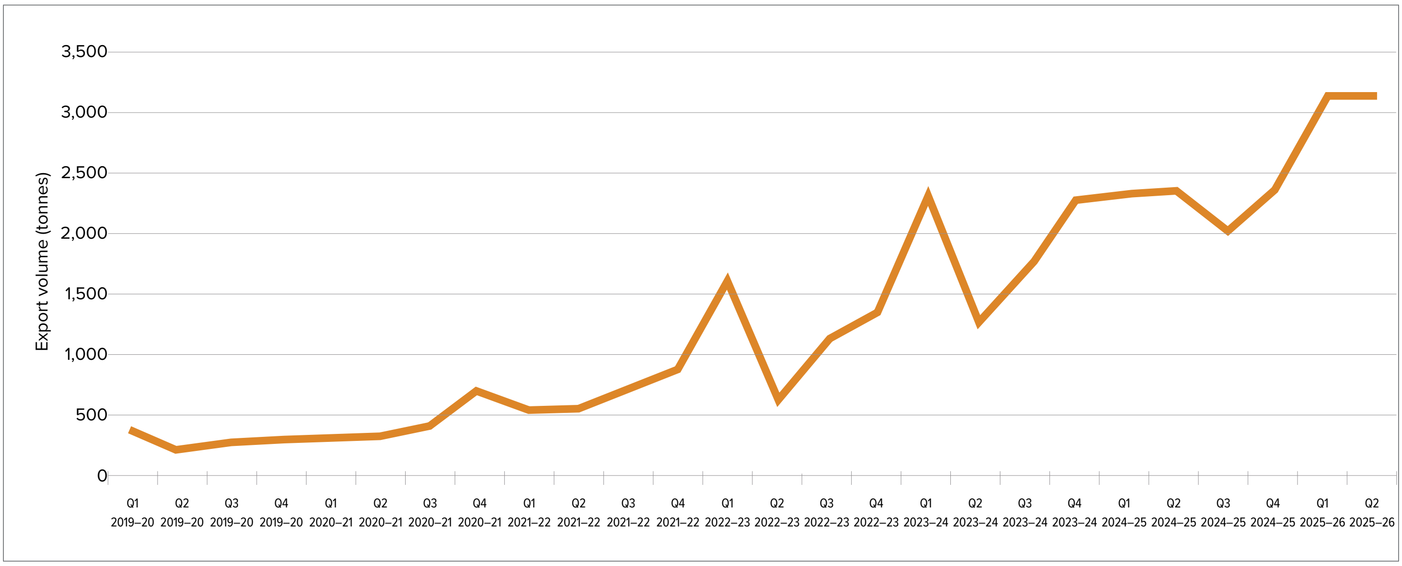
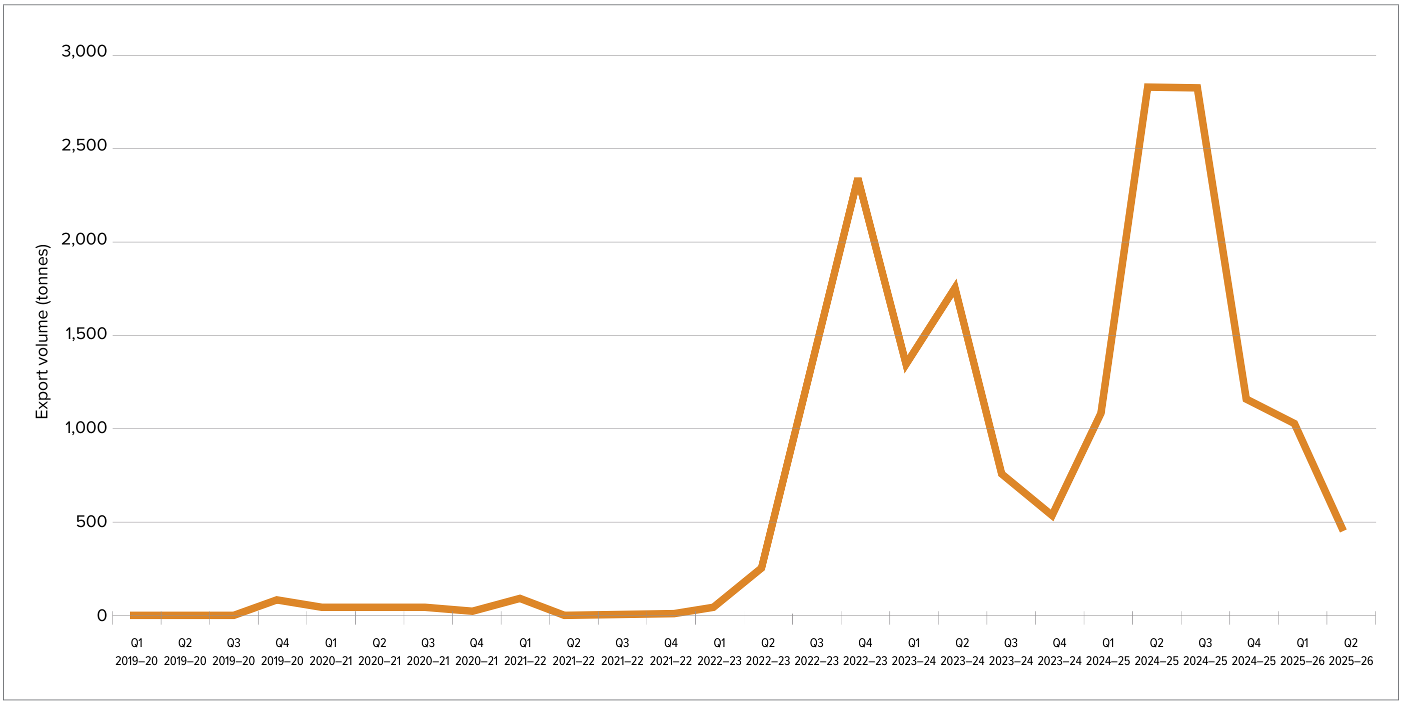


Figure 4: Goatmeat supplied to China by FY quarter (Source: DAFF, 2026b)



Forecasts

The National Goatmeat Forecasting Committee projected that the industry would process 4.16 million goats in 2025–26. At the end of the second quarter 2,430,805 goats have been processed, or 58% of the projected total. Hence, the Forecasting Committee will closely monitor the quarter three results for any signs of the slowdown in supply, which they predicted would occur in 2026 (Atkinson, 2025).

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