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Dr Mark Schipp
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
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CANBERRA
ACT 2601

5th February 2018

Re: Voyage 65 Mortality Figures in Parliamentary Report

Dear Dr Schipp

Thank you for communicating VALE's concerns to the Live Animal Export Branch. We were appreciative that the official investigation report was altered to reflect the true situation of mortality onboard High Mortality Voyage 65.

However, we note that the official figures for this voyage in the Parliamentary Report remain unchanged. In order for this document to have any purpose at all, it should be a true and accurate representation of mortalities on live export voyages. Currently, it is not.

As pointed out by the Assistant Secretary Narelle Clegg, the mortality figures in the Parliamentary Report are based on the Masters Report. The original mortality figure, retrieved solely from that Master's Report, was 4.36%. The **typed** figures recorded on the Masters Report (of which we have a copy obtained under FOI) showed then as they do now that the voyage mortality report was 4.36% (see Masters Report). There is a hand-written footnote on that Masters Report to the effect that the numbers are in dispute, a dispute that has been resolved by the government's own investigation (Voyage Report 65).

The investigation report now states that the majority of the sheep that were not unloaded from this ship were likely to have died. It is thus extremely misleading to Australian politicians and Australian public to leave the erroneous mortality figure of 2.51% in the Parliamentary Report. It is officially acknowledged that 2.51% is incorrect and also that the true mortality percentage is likely to be much closer to 4.36.

VALE believes that the official investigation report has resolved the dispute recorded as a handwritten footnote on the Masters Report. As such, the very clearly typed mortalities on the Masters Report must, by law, be used for the Parliamentary Report.

VALE requests that you, as Chief Veterinary Officer, ensure the most accurate figures are recorded on the Parliamentary Report.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sue Foster BVSc MVetClinStud FANZCVS
Spokesperson