

VALE COMMENT ON IO REPORT 202 Bahijah, Fremantle to Israel

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: Pellet fodder was generally of good quality, however as silo levels receded, a build-up of feed dust ('fines') was observed. The observer described that troughs affected by pellet fines were emptied before the morning feeding commenced, or on an as-needed basis as instructed by the AAV or stockperson.

VALE COMMENT: good that problem was recognised but has been an issue with a number of voyages.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The vessel had a total of seven decks, four fully enclosed and three open decks, with a combination of ventilation supply fans and exhaust fans. Three ventilation fans failed at different intervals during the voyage. The observer reported that these fans were repaired or replaced in a timely manner with no negative health or welfare implications for the cattle while these fans were inoperable.

VALE COMMENT: failure of 3 ventilation fans in one voyage is a concern.

IO SUMMARY: The highest recorded dry bulb temperature reached 33°C. The maximum recorded humidity was 95%.

VALE COMMENT: no mention of how often temperatures measured or when they were measured. No indication of whether the day with highest temperature was the day with highest humidity etc.

IO SUMMARY: On days 10 to 12 when the vessel reached the equator, the observer noted that cattle were heat affected during several nights, with respiration rates reaching 80-100 breaths per minute, however, no cattle exhibited open-mouth panting. Despite these elevated temperatures, the observer reported that there was no indication that the cattle were experiencing heat stress.

VALE COMMENT: as cattle's normal respiratory rate is <40 and RR of 80-100 very high, these cattle definitely had heat stress. This comment raises significant concerns about the selection process for independent observers.

Pens

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted there was sufficient space for greater than 50% of cattle to lie down during the voyage, with adequate access to feed and water at all times.

VALE COMMENT: usual comment with no details as to how many really could lie down at any time

IO SUMMARY: On two occasions during the voyage, inundation with sea water due to poor weather conditions resulted in flooding of several pens on Deck 5.

VALE COMMENT: always a risk with live export.