



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Ref: MNMC2014-01133

Sue Foster
Spokesperson
Vets Against Live Export
c/- Lady Barron Post Office
FLINDERS ISLAND TAS 7255

Dear Dr Foster

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 February 2014 to Ms Rebecca Irwin, First Assistant Secretary, Live Animal Exports Division about export of livestock from Port Kembla to Madagascar in 2007. As Assistant Secretary, Animal Export Operations Branch, I will respond as the matter falls under my area of responsibility.

My apologies for the confusion around the export licence of this particular exporter. I can confirm that Central Pacific Livestock Pty Ltd does hold a livestock export licence.

The Department of Agriculture notes your concerns in relation to this incident and I can assure you that the department undertook a thorough investigation of the consignment.

As you are aware, the department has responsibility for regulating the live animal export trade. As regulators, decision-makers operating under the legislative framework are required to exercise independent discretionary judgement. It is a matter for the regulator to decide which powers to exercise and the basis for the exercise of those powers.

Though the exporter did not arrange for a LiveCorp accredited stockman (stockman) to accompany the consignment in question, an Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian (AAV) did accompany the consignment. An AAV is better qualified to diagnose and treat livestock requiring veterinary attention than a stockman.

Given the findings of the investigation, it is highly unlikely that the presence of a stockman would have altered the outcome of this voyage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Cupit'.

Dr Jenny Cupit
Assistant Secretary
Live Animal Export Division

21 February 2014