

VALE COMMENT on REPORT 34: Bison Express Fremantle to Vietnam November 2018

Loading

IO SUMMARY: In most instances and more so per conditions, at least 80% of cattle were able to lie down at any given time.

VALE COMMENT: this is an unusual amount of space

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: Approximately 5 nose bowls were not operational or in poor condition and there were no spare parts for repairs. However all animals had good access to food and water troughs with the additional troughs provided.

VALE COMMENT: this does not appear to be an acute problem thus maintenance issue would appear to be present. Lack of spare parts is concerning.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The temperature readings were taken once per day before 10:00am for inclusion in the daily report. The maximum temperature recorded was 33°C dry bulb and 80% humidity.

VALE COMMENT: this equates to a WBT of 31.2°C so even with *Bos indicus*, it is surprising that none of the cattle are recorded as showing any signs of heat stress.

Pen conditions

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: Due to a mechanical issue with the engine two days after departing Fremantle, the vessel was required to stop in Geraldton for two days for repairs.

VALE COMMENT: mechanical issues are always an added risk in the live export trade.

IO SUMMARY: There were 4 mortalities on board the vessel during the voyage. The first was euthanised following a fractured leg. The cause of the second and third mortalities was undetermined. The final mortality was euthanised as the animal was unable to rise at the time of discharge.

VALE COMMENT: as per usual, no diagnosis made for mortality when no veterinarian onboard