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Hon David Littleproud
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

10th April 2018

Re: OFFER OF ASSISTANCE

Dear Mr Littleproud,

VALE is an organisation of about 200 veterinarians who, after very careful analysis of all available documents from 1978 onwards, set up in 2011 to actively oppose live export on objective scientific grounds. Our membership includes academics, livestock production experts, behaviourists, animal welfare experts, legal experts and also ordinary Australian veterinarians from all veterinary fields.

VALE would like to thank you very much for the strong and proactive stance you have taken in response to the very evident cruelty experienced by Australian sheep on both routine and high mortality voyages to the Middle Eastern summer.

We have attached our submission to Stage 1 of the ASEL Review which was prepared well before VALE was privy to the upcoming 60 Minutes Exposé. Our careful analysis shows that animals cannot be transported safely and humanely to the Middle East in the northern summer under current shipping and stocking conditions. VALE published a scientific review of heat stress back in 2014 (also attached). Our paper was published in *The Veterinary Journal*, a very prestigious, high citation, American veterinary journal. The paper was in the top 10 papers published in this journal for over 12 months. As VALE Spokesperson, I also presented a lecture on heat stress in live export at the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Conference in 2014 – this conference is the premiere Australian specialist veterinary conference. VALE is thus the best qualified group to discuss, independently, heat stress on live export voyages.

VALE would be keen to assist you in your reviews of this trade in whatever way possible. We can provide you with factual, scientific, industry and historic data on the live export trade as we have the largest veterinary archive for live export of any group in Australia. We would also be happy to meet with you to discuss in detail the issues.

VALE is a not for profit volunteer organisation. Our members are veterinarians. Our committee manages a NPO against the background of our busy professional lives purely for the reason that no-one else is able to do what we do. Veterinarians should be the advisors in animal health and welfare but to do this with objectivity, they must have no industry conflict of interest. VALE has no industry conflict of interest and our opposition to the trade (including our name) only came about AFTER we had carefully analysed all the available data.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sue Foster BVSc MVetClinStud FANZCVS
Spokesperson