



Dr Sue Foster  
Vets Against Animal Export (VALE)

Via email: [info@vale.org.au](mailto:info@vale.org.au)

Dear Dr Foster

### **Your Freedom of Information request – consultation**

I refer to your request, received by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (**department**) on 18 May 2020 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* to the following documents:

The records outlined below relating to:

1. Ocean Drover; Townsville to Jakarta and Panjang, departing 31 October 2019 (Independent Observer 197)
2. Yangtze Fortune; Portland to Qinzhou, departing 16 November 2019 (Independent Observer 201)

Records:

- the End of Voyage Report
- the Masters Report
- all Daily Voyage Reports
- all daily correspondence/records from the Independent Observer during the voyage
- all reports from the Independent Observer
- all correspondence, and records correspondence, between the Independent Observer and the department relating to the production of the observer's report and summary report'

### **Your request involves too much work for the department**

Your request covers a wide range of documents. We are asking you to revise your request to give us more specific details about the information you are after because of the amount of work involved for the department.

If you decide not to make any revisions to your request, the department may refuse your FOI request as a 'practical refusal reason' exists.

### **What I took into account**

Due to the amount of work involved for the department, under sections 24AA(1)(a)(i), 24 and 24AA(2) of the FOI Act, the department intends to refuse your FOI request as a 'practical refusal reason' exists. Under the Act, the practical refusal reason is that processing your request 'would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources' of this agency.

To process your request the department would have to do extensive searches to find and process the documents you asked for. Preliminary searches indicate that the department may

hold more than 1160 files, requiring consultation with more than 20 third parties which is likely to take over 100 hours to process

### **How to send us a 'revised request'**

Before a final decision is made on your request, you can submit a revised request.

Within the next 14 days (consultation period) you must do one of the following in writing:

- withdraw the request;
- make a revised request; or
- tell us that you do not want to revise your request.

If you do not contact us during the consultation period, we will assume that you do not want to continue with your request.

You have asked for a large range of materials relating to two voyages. If you would like to make a revised request, you could consider reducing the number of voyages and types of documents you have asked for. You could also consider asking for documents in relation to narrow and specific timeframes.

### **Contact officer**

During the consultation period, you are welcome to contact the department to ask for help in revising your request. The contact officer's details are as follows:

Louise Dorrian  
[foi@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:foi@agriculture.gov.au)

Your response will be expected by 12 June 2020. If no response is received, your request will be taken as having been withdrawn.

### **Further assistance**

If you have any questions, please email [foi@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:foi@agriculture.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tina Hutchison  
Assistant Secretary  
Live Animal Export  
29 May 2020