



Dr Sue Foster
Vets Against Live Export Inc.

Via email: info@vale.org.au

Dear Dr Foster

Your Freedom of Information request – consultation

I refer to your request, on behalf of Vets Against Live Export Inc., received by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (**department**) on 29 June 2020 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* to the following documents:

The following documents in relation to the voyage of the MV Ocean Drover from Townsville to Jakarta and Panjang, departing 31 October 2019:

- the first draft of the Independent Observer Report 197 as sent from the Independent Observer to the department after completion of the voyage;
- the final draft of the Independent Observer Report 197 as sent from the Independent Observer to the department; and
- all correspondence, and records of correspondence, between the Independent Observer and the department relating to the production of the Independent Observer's report and summary report by the department.

Your request involves too much work for the department

We are asking you to revise your request because of the amount of work involved for the department.

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.

As a preliminary estimate, your request is likely to take over 55 hours to process, this is in particular due to the large number of third parties that would require consultation. This is because the documents contain a substantial amount of business and personal information, in addition to commercially valuable information.

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

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.

If you would like to make a revised request, you could consider excluding the attachments to the first draft report and excluding the correspondence or specifying particular documents rather than “all correspondence, and records of correspondence”.

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
6272 4927
foi@agriculture.gov.au

Your response will be expected by **30 July 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.

Yours sincerely



Tina Hutchison
Assistant Secretary
Live Animal Export Branch
Export Reform and Live Animal Exports Division

16 July 2020