

## **VALE COMMENT ON REPORT 84, Rahmeh dairy cattle to China**

### **Loading**

IO SUMMARY: The vessel was not fully loaded so the cattle had sufficient space move around the pens, lay down and had good access to feed and water.

VALE COMMENT: high quality dairy cows always given more space. Rare for all cattle to be able to lie down at once.

IO SUMMARY: Once loaded, the master advised of a change of route that involved sailing up the Western Australian coastline to avoid cyclone activity on the far north east coast of Australia.

VALE COMMENT: highlights the inherent risks of the voyage

### **Feed and water**

IO SUMMARY: Consumption was reduced during the middle part of the voyage to ensure feed supplies for the duration of the voyage were met.

VALE COMMENT: feed deprivation required (as per other reports) due to non-anticipated delays and inadequacy of the 3 day contingency plan, especially on the long voyages to China.

IO SUMMARY: Due to design features, the gravity feed system supplied more feed to the lower decks. To address this issue, the feed chutes on the lower decks were blocked for one feed per day to ensure the top decks received adequate supply.

VALE COMMENT: has this problem only been detected since IO On board?

IO SUMMARY: A minor issue occurred on day 4 where a water supply issue was identified on the upper decks. The crew rectified the issue within 2 hours and put in place follow up monitoring to ensure an adequate water supply was maintained.

VALE COMMENT: seems acceptable

### **Ventilation**

IO SUMMARY: Wet and dry temperature measuring devices were installed on every deck of the vessel and the readings were taken at 11:00am each day.

VALE COMMENT: this time is unlikely to capture the hottest part of the day or the coolest part of the day. With the significant temperature issues/variation on voyages to China in the northern winter, once daily monitoring (which seems to be routine on these voyages) is inadequate.

IO SUMMARY: There was a significant variation in temperatures during the voyage. In the tropical regions on day 12, the temperatures included readings from 26°C to 32°C dry bulb and 86% humidity. In the temperate regions, on day 21 the temperatures recorded ranged from 2°C to 13°C dry bulb and approximately 77% humidity.

VALE COMMENT: typical temperature variations. Harsh to subject cattle to such extreme and unnatural temperature variations over a week.

### **Health and Welfare**

IO SUMMARY: The main reasons for treatments were pink eye, lameness and respiratory disease.

VALE SUMMARY: this is one of the few (?only) reports where causes of mortality not provided.

**Representative Photos**

The only IO Report where Day number not provided on the photos. Has the reduced transparency diminished further?