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NEWSFLASH

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Live Export Shame Tasmania has joined calls by Animals Australia and PACAT (People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport) for a ban on loading the problem-plagued "Maysora" which has just returned to Fremantle after major losses of cattle on its last voyage.

Hundreds of cattle died on the ship, and hundreds more died later in two Israeli feedlots after unloading in the port of Eilat on November 2 and 3. At the same time, the Israeli government suspended the trade in Australian sheep after rejecting animals in this shipment and another previous one amidst animal health concerns. LiveCorp's Cameron Hall denied the suspension as Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Peter McGauran confirmed it. Minister McGauran also confirmed that an AQIS (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service) investigation is under way to investigate the deaths of hundreds of the "Maysora" cattle (see photos attached).

Live Export Shame's Suzanne Cass said:-

"According to the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock Version 2, which AQIS has confirmed as being mandatory, cattle of the *Bos Taurus* type are not to be sourced for export from the south of Australia (south of latitude 26 degrees south) between May and October, yet many of the cattle in the photos are clearly of that type. The Standards require a heat/stress assessment to be undertaken before these animals are to be loaded. That might provide a few clues in the investigation. As well, journeys involving multi-port departures and destinations are known to be higher risk".

The 26 year old "Maysora", a converted container ship, has run into animal welfare problems before. In 2001, British veterinarian Dr Petra Sidholm inspected the ship on its first voyage carrying livestock, and found multiple serious animal welfare issues, including severe overcrowding, sick and dying animals lying in piles of waste and defective feed and water mechanisms. In 2003, South African animal advocates expressed similar concerns as the "Maysora" carried live animals to Mauritius. In October 2005, the ship was stranded in Western Australian waters for over a week after a crane fell from the ship onto a truck below, then it was beset by further mechanical problems.

“Also on the last shipment were 40,000 sheep destined for Egypt, reprehensible as that is”, continued Ms Cass. “Minister McGauran talks about animal welfare “laws” in Egypt, and he knows as well as we do that there are none. Those sheep who were loaded in Portland and unloaded in Egypt were on the “Maysora” for almost a month.

“Given the known animal welfare issues with the “Maysora”, it is negligent and unconscionable for the Minister, and AQIS, to allow it to load animals, certainly until the causes of the deaths of the cattle during and after its last voyage are ascertained”, concluded Ms Cass.

*For further information, please contact Suzanne Cass on 0414 726935
For all photographs and film viewing of the “Maysora” calves please visit
www.liveexportshame.com*



