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"THE COUNTRYMAN" EDITOR TAKES LUXURY HOLIDAY

Live Export Shame Tasmania has enjoyed "Countryman" editor Cameron Morse's account of his recent trip on the "Becrux" to the Middle East, although as fairytales go, we have read better. We understand that this industry is in a desperate position in terms of self-justification, but we would really have preferred to see a bit of reality.

For example, why is it that anyone offered the chance of seeing the shipboard phase of these terrible journeys for the doomed animals only travels in the "Becrux", one of the few livestock carriers that is under 20 years old, and upon which (despite its historically disastrous maiden voyage) we assume that feed, water and ventilation systems all work. It is our understanding that the "Bader III" and the "Maysora" were all heading in the general direction at the time. Perhaps Mr Morse might travel on one of those, or perhaps the "Al Kuwait", or the "Farid F" next time. We do not expect a true account of such a voyage, however.



The "Al Kuwait", 39 years old



The "Bader III", 28 years old

Mr Morse also makes extravagant claims of Australia's contribution to animal welfare in importing countries. We have seen how effective Memoranda (yes Minister, the plural of Memorandums is Memoranda) of Understanding are with these people.

Without Australia's participation in these markets, claims Mr Morse, animal welfare would suffer. Animal advocates have been appealing to the Minister to stop exports of live animals to the war torn Middle East as hostilities have escalated, but of course that has not happened, because there are DOLLARS to be made. A Brazilian exporter, however, has taken that initiative and stopped exports of live cattle to Lebanon. And Australia has the best animal welfare standards for exported animals in the world, claim the exporters and the government.

According to DAFF's website, Australia has Memoranda of Understanding with United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Eritrea and negotiations are continuing with Qatar, Iran, Israel, Oman, Bahrain and Egypt.

This is how effective they are:-



Kuwait



Jordan



Jordan

And these are the practices that Cameron Morse either didn't get to see, or chose not to report on. No Memorandum of Understanding will change this.



Oman



Bahrain



Qatar

Mr Morse, tell us that the camera lies, that these photographs are not real. One or two farmers might want to believe you, but none really care, because there is MONEY TO BE MADE! We have to update the SUV every year and keep the kids in private schools, don't we?