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NEWSFLASH

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Live Export Shame Tasmania says it is bitterly disappointed with the response of Primary Industries Minister David Llewellyn to a series of complaints made under the Animal Welfare Act and the Australian Standard for the Export of Livestock relating to the loading of the livestock carrier "*Al Messilah*" in February this year.

Spokesperson Lisa McKenzie said:

"Live Export Shame and Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania, as well as the RSPCA, raised numerous issues with the Minister, including specific matters under the "mismanagement" and "cruelty" provisions of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Act, and breaches of the Australian Standard for the Export of Livestock, **on at least five occasions**. We included requests to meet with the Minister.

"The best response he has been able to provide is to tell us that 'live exports proceed under Commonwealth legislation', and to refuse to meet with us. We are, of course, well aware of all the legislative provisions. Dr Llewellyn did not even mention the specific complaints we made, other than to say that "animal welfare was assured whilst the animals were in Tasmania" - and we had sent him specific complaints proving that nothing was further from the truth!"

Live Export Shame Tasmania says that it has taken six months to get this minimal and totally inadequate response from the Minister, and that **he should face up to his responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act or step aside in favour of someone who will**. It also points out that a current case before the courts in Western Australia broadly reflects conditions in Tasmania, making the Tasmanian government vulnerable to a similar challenge to the WA case.

Live Export Shame Tasmania claims that the WA case is based on animals being "transported in a manner that is likely to cause them unnecessary or unjustified harm, or suffering", and that the Act in Tasmania contains similar provisions. The Western Australian judicial system has found that exporter Emanuels and two of its Directors, Michael Stanton and Graham Daws, have a case to answer over a voyage of the "*Al Kuwait*" in 2003 on which over 1,000 sheep died. Mr Daws has previously had his licence suspended.

"We believe that there is clear evidence that the live export process causes animals immeasurable and unnecessary harm and suffering", said Ms McKenzie.

"We addressed a series of very specific complaints to the Minister on several occasions, and he has totally ignored every one of them", Ms McKenzie continued. "In addition, the State government has consistently ignored successful motions at State Labor Councils in recent years demanding that it implement legislation to ban the export of live animals from Tasmania.

"If Dr Llewellyn cannot or will not do his job, then he should be removed from the portfolio incorporating animal welfare".

For further information, please contact Lisa McKenzie, 0409 564 067