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NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

Live Export Shame Tasmania has described the proposed resumption of the live export trade to Egypt as totally immoral and reprehensible. Agriculture Minister McGauran announced yesterday that two Memoranda of Understanding had been signed with Egypt with the stated intention of ensuring the welfare of Australian cattle exported there.

Spokesperson for Live Export Shame Tasmania Suzanne Cass said:

“Predictably, the farmers associations are reacting with unseemly joy over this. Has Australia forgotten what we saw on *“Sixty Minutes”* last February? The same horrific practices that were brought to the attention of the industry and the Federal Government in 2001 and 2003. After those exposes, the Australian community was assured that it was “all fixed” when in fact nothing has changed.”

Animals Australia investigator Lyn White visited Egypt (as well as Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman) in February this year, returning with film footage and documentary evidence that sickened the nation. There was clear evidence of torture of animals, with cattle being forced off trucks with no ramps, landing heavily on their backs, leg tendons being slashed and eyes being stabbed to cripple and disorient the animals. United States livestock expert Professor Temple Grandin, when shown the footage, reacted with disgust, citing gratuitous cruelty.

“If the Agriculture Minister thinks that Memoranda of Understanding, and monitoring slaughter conditions will work this time, he must be sadly naïve”, said Ms Cass. “They haven’t fixed it before, and they won’t fix it now”

Meat and Livestock Australia’s veterinarian based in the Middle East, Nigel Brown, was quoted extensively in local (but not Australian) newspapers in June saying that hog-tying sheep and throwing them into the boots of cars in 40+ degree heat was acceptable, because it “made them feel safe”.

“If this is the sort of person who is going to be monitoring Australian animals in Egypt, then once again, it is totally inadequate and unacceptable”, continued Ms Cass. “What does the Minister think – that these people, who so clearly enjoyed the atrocities they were carrying out, will treat Australian animals well if we ask them nicely? They haven’t before, and they won’t

now. They have the likes of Nigel Brown monitoring this. Resuming this trade in terrible animal suffering brings shame on every Australian”.



Egypt - Sheep being forced into car boot



Egypt - slashing the leg tendons of cattle



Egypt - leg tendons repeatedly slashed



Egypt - Eye stabbed, AFTER the throat is slashed

“This appalling industry stops at nothing in the name of profit”, concluded Ms Cass.

For further information, please contact Suzanne Cass, Live Export Shame Tasmania, 0414 726935

For copies of DVD of film footage, please contact Suzanne Cass. High-res photos are available for download at www.animalsaustralia.org.au

