

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Review of Bos taurus cattle exports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 2020-05-11 s. 47F to McEwen re review of Bos Taurus cattle exports.pdf

**From:** s. 47F(1) [mailto:s. 47F(1)]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 May 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** McEwen, Melissa <Melissa.McEwen@awe.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) @rspca.org.au>, s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1)@rspca.org.au>; Sheridan, Carol <Carol.Sheridan@awe.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Review of Bos taurus cattle exports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Melissa

Please find attached correspondence regarding our concerns about Bos taurus cattle exports. The letter has also been addressed to the Minister and Secretary.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet to discuss when your team has a chance, understanding it will be online or t/c.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

RSPCA Australia



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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Review of Bos taurus cattle exports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**From:** McEwen, Melissa <[Melissa.McEwen@awe.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.McEwen@awe.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Monday, 11 May 2020 2:48 PM

**To:** s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) [@rspca.org.au](mailto:@rspca.org.au); McEwen, Melissa <[Melissa.McEwen@awe.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.McEwen@awe.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) [@rspca.org.au](mailto:@rspca.org.au); s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) [@rspca.org.au](mailto:@rspca.org.au); Sheridan, Carol <[Carol.Sheridan@awe.gov.au](mailto:Carol.Sheridan@awe.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Review of Bos taurus cattle exports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks <sup>s. 47G(1)</sup> – we will have a look and then set something up.

Melissa McEwen

s. 47F(1)

**From:** s. 47F(1) [[mailto:s. 47F\(1\) @rspca.org.au](mailto:s. 47F(1) @rspca.org.au)]

**Sent:** Monday, 11 May 2020 2:40 PM

**To:** McEwen, Melissa

**Cc:** s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) Sheridan, Carol

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Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

s. 47F  
(4)

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RSPCA Australia



**Es.** 47F(1) [@rspca.org.au](mailto:@rspca.org.au) **W** [www.rspca.org.au](http://www.rspca.org.au)

**Ps.** 47F(1) **Ms.** 47F(1)

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## RSPCA NATIONAL BUSHFIRE APPEAL

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11 May 2020

Dr Melissa McEwen  
Principal Regulatory Officer  
Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports  
Department of Agriculture

Dear Dr McEwen

**Urgent review of *Bos taurus* cattle exports required**

We have been reviewing the Independent Observer summary reports (IO Reports) of *Bos taurus* cattle exports with great concern. The reports and accompanying images detail shocking conditions with extreme changes in climatic conditions significantly compromising animal welfare and pen conditions. Heat stress is a common observation from most of these voyages crossing the equator to China including several reports of severe heat stress with open mouth panting and tongues protruding.

These voyages experience conditions of up to 34°C WBT and 90% humidity going over the equatorial region before plummeting to sub zero temperatures in Northern Chinese ports. An example of the dramatic temperature fluctuations is detailed in IO Report 40 from the *Ocean Ute* voyage from Portland to China in November 2018:

*The weather during loading at Portland was wet and cold (temperature below 10 degrees Celsius). The temperature and humidity increased as the vessel travelled north. Humidity reached a maximum of 86 per cent (in conjunction with 32 degrees Celsius) on Day 6. The initial pen wash occurred on day 10 and improved the conditions for the cattle. The temperatures and humidity remained similar (without any relief at night) until day 15 of the voyage.*

*After day 15 of the voyage, the temperature decreased on a daily basis. By day 17, the temperature on the deck was around zero. The heat/humidity and subsequent cold temperatures appeared to adversely affect the health of some of the cattle, particularly those in poorer condition.*

Similar temperature fluctuations are seen in several other IO Reports departing Australia for China during the Northern hemisphere winter months. These climatic conditions also contribute to poor pen conditions where cattle are forced to stand and lay in several inches of wet faeces for prolonged periods of the voyage in between deck washdowns. I **attach** a series of images from the reports depicting these conditions. I would hope the Department shares my serious concerns over the conditions depicted.

RSPCA Australia is currently producing a formal analysis of these voyages with a view to publishing a report in the coming months, but due to the urgency of the matter we wanted to bring our concerns to your attention now as we believe the issue requires immediate attention.

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It is clear from the IO Reports that the risks posed to the welfare of *Bos taurus* cattle exported over the equator are just as significant as those faced by sheep exported to the Middle East. While the recent Heat Stress Risk Assessment (HSRA) Review was focused on sheep, the ASEL Review Technical Committee nevertheless “stresses the need for the model to be developed for cattle also, acknowledging that this may require further research to obtain the necessary scientific data.”

As you are aware, the ASEL Review Technical Committee subsequently recommended that a HSRA be developed for all voyages crossing the equator, which the Department supported:

<p><b>Recommendation 27 – Heat Stress Risk Assessment</b></p> <p>That the standards be revised over time to require the application of an agreed Heat Stress Risk Assessment to all livestock voyages that cross the equator, at all times of the year, from all Australian ports. This requirement will require significant model development and a staged implementation approach.</p>	<p><b>Support.</b> The current practice of applying the HSRA model to all voyages to, or through, the Middle East will be continued and included in the updated ASEL. The requirement of a HSRA for other markets will be updated in ASEL as a heat stress model becomes available for each market. This will require further consultation with and development of the model/s by industry and implementation will be staged.</p>
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We understand the Government intends to review ASEL on a periodic three-year basis but I hope you would agree this issue cannot remain unaddressed for that period of time. The evidence depicted in these reports warrants an immediate review of *Bos taurus* cattle exports travelling over the equator to ensure the welfare impacts depicted in these reports can be mitigated to the fullest extent possible and the Department is complying with its animal welfare obligations under the *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004*. We trust that any such review would be undertaken by an independent technical panel with stakeholder input and public consultation.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue and hear of the Department’s plans moving forward. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

RSPCA Australia

CC - Minister David Littleproud; Secretary Andrew Metcalfe



## Attachment - Images of Bos Taurus cattle from IO Reports

IO Report 18 - *MV Jawan*, Portland to China, August/September 2018





IO Report 40 - MV *Ocean Ute*, Portland to China, November 2018







IO Report 55 - *MV Shorthorn Express*, Portland to China, November 2018





IO Report 111 - *MV Yangtze Fortune*, Portland to China, April 2019



**Open mouth panting, tongues protruding**

IO Report 55 - *MV Shorthorn Express*, Portland to China, November 2018



IO Report 118 - *MV Bahijah*, Portland to Israel, April/May 2019



IO Report 173 - *MV Galloway Express*, Fremantle to China, August 2019

