



**People Against Cruelty
in Animal Transport**

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PACAT is a member of ANZFAS (the Australian & New Zealand Federation of Animal Societies)

Committee Meetings: 35 High Street, Fremantle (Rooms 1 & 2)

1.30pm Sat 25 June 2005

1.30pm Sat 30 July 2005

All members welcome at committee meetings (usually held on last Sat of month) but phone the office by Thursday 1pm preceding, in case the time has varied.

Volume 10, Issue 3

PACAT NEWS

June 2005

Please check label on envelope to see if your renewal is due!

WA Government Investigates Live Export Cruelty Complaint

Along with Animals Australia (AA) and UK-based group, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), PACAT applauds the decision by the WA Government to investigate AA's benchmark complaint, which alleges that live sheep export from Fremantle breaches WA animal protection legislation—namely Section 19 (1) (3) of the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002.

In November 2003, investigators from AA and CIWF travelled to Kuwait where they documented the condition of Australian sheep on arrival of the livestock vessel *MV Al Kuwait*. The evidence gathered led to AA lodging a complaint and file of evidence with WA Police.

Last June, AA placed the responsibility for the complaint with the WA government. In January this year AA commenced proceedings in the WA Supreme Court seeking a Writ of Mandamus in regards to the government's failure to instigate an investigation.

The State Solicitor's Office has recently advised Animals Australia that the government is now investigating the complaint.

As Glenys Oogjes, Executive Director of Animals Australia says:

"This investigation is the most significant of any ever undertaken in Australia into an animal welfare complaint. Regardless of the arguments for and against live animal export, if live sheep export is

found to breach Western Australia's animal welfare legislation, it has to end."

Well done to all involved and let's hope for a suspension of trade, followed by a total ban (at least in WA) in the near future!

Politicians really do take our complaints about trucks seriously!

A staff member inside the Department of Local Government has indirectly assured us that letters to Ministers are taken seriously, *especially when they arrive in number*. This staff member indicated that the Department gets a lot of well documented evidence from other activists of breaches of animal transport codes and would welcome any from PACAT members.

Therefore, we urge you all to report breaches of the Codes of Practice for the transport of animals (there is one for each species) to the Department of Local Government. These include legs and heads protruding from trucks, animals down and being trampled, sheep on top tiers not contained properly, overloaded trucks: basically the sort of things that all of us see all the time but think it pointless to report because nothing will happen. Note the time, place and rego number of the prime mover (not the trailer) and if you can get a photo, even better! Then send it all to the Minister (see following details). The aim of this exercise is not to launch prosecutions, although this would be a great outcome, but to make sure that the people responsible for framing Codes are aware that even these extremely basic requirements are not being adhered to or enforced. This type of evidence is invaluable when Codes are reviewed and *the politicians and public servants take seriously those members of the public who take the time and effort to document such breaches*.

So next time you see those legs sticking out, don't just get angry—get even as well! Report it to:

Hon. John James Mansell Bowler

Minister for Local Government and Regional Development; Land Information; Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern

Ministerial office: 11th Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock St, West Perth, WA 6005, Ph: 9213 6500, Fax: 9213 6501

Electorate office: 99 Burt St, Boulder, WA 6432, Ph: 9093 2999, Toll Free 1800 199 728, Fax: 9093 2990, E-mail: jbowler@mp.wa.gov.au

Committee: Casual Vacancies

Mainly due to committee members moving interstate, four PACAT committee positions are now vacant, including the President*, Secretary and two 'ordinary' (or should it be extraordinary?) committee members. The committee will receive new nominations at the November AGM, so it is only for a few months. Nevertheless, this is your chance to help steer us forward in this exciting time, when the live animal exporters are running scared and victory could be closer than ever! The main requirement is attendance at most of the monthly committee meetings. Call or e-mail the office now to register your interest. **See back of flyer for the President's farewell letter to members.*

James Point Port Development

Members interested in lodging a submission (before July 1) regarding the proposed port development at James Point, south of Fremantle should phone PACAT member Ken Lowe on 9356 5341 to discuss.

Next regular Fremantle demos:

Sat 11 June, 9 July, 13 August

These demos are held at the corner of Tydeman Rd and Victoria Bridge (old Freo bridge) at 11 am—approx 1-hour duration.

Banners and pamphlets are provided. Parking is available in the Post Office premises.

Since Heather Wood has recently moved interstate, handing over coordination of these demos to Lorraine Foulkes, please phone either the office, or Lorraine on 0405 040 446, for further dates or if you have any questions.

This newsletter was photocopied by Lynn Gauntlett at the office of Giz Watson, MLC. Our thanks to Giz, Lynn and all the volunteers who helped with the mail out.

Editor: Tanya Marwood, who can be contacted with items for inclusion on e-mail at the PACAT office, or tanya.m@globaldial.com