Dear Ambassador

Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak with you today. I stress again the Western Australian Government values Qatar as a long term trading partner and wants to ensure that we work together to prepare for any change in the availability of live export of sheep to Qatar.

You are well aware that the appalling conditions on some live export vessels has created overwhelming response from the Australian community and meaningful change is expected.

In the last few days, a report has been released by the Australian Veterinary Association which highlights the very great difficulty in humanely exporting Australian sheep into Qatar in the months of high heat and humidity.

I want to ensure that contingencies are in place in the event that a pause in the live export trade is necessary in your summer months to protect your country’s food security.

In 2017, more than 2,300 tonnes of meat was exported via air to your country. It will be difficult to increase this volume on passenger aircrafts as Qatar Airways has moved to the Airbus A380 which has less cargo capacity.

We would like to explore further options to export chilled meat through Qatar Airways passenger planes or air freighters or export chilled meat by sea utilising the advances in sea container technology. Obviously we will ensure efficiencies and cost impact are considerations for any alternative methods of transportation.

We can also increase frozen meat exports to your country as for some sections of your community, this type of meat will be an acceptable option.
I would like you to consider all these possibilities and continue the conversation with you to put these contingencies in place in the event that a pause takes place in the live sheep export trade during the Middle Eastern summer months.

The Federal Government is likely to make a decision on this matter in the next two weeks. In addition to that, the Western Australian Government has obligations under the State Animal Welfare Act 2002 which could affect the ability for live sheep to be sent on ships from the Fremantle Port.

We look forward to working with you to ensure this matter is resolved.

HON ALANNAH MACTIERNAN MLC
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD;
MINISTER ASSISTING THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT;
JOBS AND TRADE

3 May 2013
Embassy of the
STATE OF QATAR
CANBERRA

The HON Alannah MacTiernan MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food;
Minister assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
11th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister,

Greetings,

Thank you for your letter No. 64-47137, of 08/05/2018, and your phone call yesterday regrading trade partnership and live export of sheep to Qatar.
I would like to assure you that the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Australia is exerting every effort with stakeholders in Qatar and Australia to prepare for any change in the possibility of live export of sheep to Qatar.
I would like also to assure you that the Embassy is following up with Qatari stakeholders regarding the welfare of livestock imported by Qatar; in particular, the Embassy is following up with supply chains including importers and shipping stakeholders to ensure nonoccurrence of instances of noncompliance of direct animal welfare impact.
Dear Minister, as you are well aware, the State of Qatar has been trying to tackle the diplomatic, humanitarian and commercial impacts of the Saudi and UAE led illegal blockade imposed on Qatar, affecting the lives of not only Qatari people, but affecting as well the lives of many other nationalities, including Australians, residing in Qatar.
In such circumstance, the State of Qatar expects the support of its friends and partners, particularly in relation to issues of food security, in ways that ensure benefits for the peoples of both sides. In this regard, the Embassy notes Australian stakeholders including prominent politicians and Members of Parliament who recently voiced their support of live exports and indicated the criticality of Middle East markets for Australian livestock’s stakeholders.

In the same vein, the Embassy notes that Qatar is one of the major markets for Australian livestock exports. Moreover, the Embassy emphasizes that, for religious and cultural events such as “Eid-ul-Adha” which is celebrated annually by Muslims in the Middle East and elsewhere, the Qatari markets preference and demand for livestock imports is more than its preference and demand for chilled meat. By the way, Eid Eid-ul-Adha this year will be in August.

However, your suggestions regarding exports of chilled meat to Qatar, has been conveyed to Qatari stakeholders for their consideration, and the Embassy will provide you with their response as soon as received.

Dear Minister, once again I would like to thank you for your communication and assure you that the Embassy will continue its liaison with your Office, as well as with Qatari and Australian stakeholders to ensure the welfare of livestock exports to Qatar.

Accept, Dear Minister the assurance of my highest consideration

Nasser bin Hamad bin Ali Al Khalifa
The Ambassador
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC  
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food;  
Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Jobs and Trade

Our ref: 04-07137

His Excellency Nasser bin Hamad Mubarak Al-Khalifa  
State of Qatar Ambassador to Australia  
Embassy of the State of Qatar  
10 Akame Circuit  
O Malley ACT 2606

Dear Mr Ambassador

LIVE EXPORT AND MEAT TRADE WITH QATAR

Thank you for your letter received on 9 May 2018.

I expect that we will have a position from the Federal Government tomorrow on live sheep exports into the Middle East during your summer months. The extent of the problem you may face will be clearer at that time.

I appreciate you conveying my proposition to Qatari stakeholders and hope to hear their responses soon.

Yours sincerely

HON ALANNAH MACTIERNAN MLC  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD;  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT,  
JOBS AND TRADE

8 MAY 2018

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