

Monday, 11th July, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly urge you to support the Bill to BAN LIVE EXPORT FOREVER! The time is now, where Australians from all over the country are fighting hard and campaigning intensely to help put an end to the misery and torment our animals face when exported to countries with no concern for the welfare and humane treatment of animals.

I myself have personally been extremely affected by the recent exposure on TV and the haunting images of our poor cows and sheep that are forced to endure pure hell. Through further investigating since this was aired on TV, I am totally appalled that Australia's Industry leaders and some politicians have adopted the 'turn a blind eye' approach to this matter. It is obvious that some members of Government have become detached and do not see animal welfare as a huge concern to our country. They have accepted this trade as part of Australia's economy and many have been aware of the unethical and inhumane treatment for a very long time. Also, it has become apparent that the MLA are and have been happy to keep this terrible abuse hidden from the public eye, and they now must be held responsible for their actions. Australians do not want this trade to continue.

Although a strong focus has been on Indonesia and their treatment of our animals (this time), we are very aware that the same torture and cruelty to our animals is endured in the other countries that we send our animals to for slaughter. Therefore, in NO way can we ever trust Industry to have the ability to assure the Australian public that these terrible acts of animal cruelty will not continue behind closed doors. There is NO WAY to ensure that our animals will be treated with the highest respect. We cannot trust those who stand to make a profit from this industry, as money and deadlines are of the highest concern, not the animals.

With the suspension of this trade, Australian's were finally given a moment to breathe and many began researching the history of this trade and how the animals are regarded within this industry. Many groups of concerned citizens have joined together all over the country to take action against this indefensible trade and many who have never been involved in a debate such as this have stepped forward to have their say. Australians are taking this issue very seriously, and this is an issue that the Government MUST act on appropriately and stop this trade. The public outcry cannot be ignored anymore!

Facts of the Live Export Trade:

- During the last 30 years, Australia has sent more than 150 million sheep and cattle to be slaughtered in other parts of the world, such as the Middle East and South East Asia. Depending on their destination, the journey by boat can take up to 3 weeks, during which time the animals remain in cramped conditions and must endure all weather extremes.
- Every year, thousands of animals die during the journey. In 2010, just under 30,000 sheep died en route to the Middle East and 1,000 cattle died on ships.

- The majority of countries importing Australian animals have no laws to protect animals from cruelty.
 - Sheep exported to the Middle East, are routinely mishandled, dragged, and many have their legs bound together and are thrown in the boots of cars, in a region that often has temperatures hovering near 50°C in summer.
 - Cattle exported to Indonesia are routinely treated brutally prior to slaughter, including being tripped to the floor by ropes. Common abuses documented include: eye gouging, being whipped, hit and kicked, having their tail broken and even having their leg tendons slashed. Similar abuse of cattle has been documented in the Middle East.
 - The vast majority of Australian animals exported to the Middle East and South East Asian countries, including Indonesia, are slaughtered whilst fully conscious. Animals Australia's investigation in Indonesia revealed cattle were suffering an average of 11 cuts to the throat and often many minutes of pain, thrashing and bellowing before losing consciousness.
- *The above six points are referenced from Animals Australia.

The above is simply a “snap-shot” of any given journey to these countries that our animals are subjected to. We must look back to how we were producing meat prior to the commencement of the Live Export trade. The Government must decide on a plan for our Farmer's. Australians are waiting for the leader of this Country to take decisive action. I urge you to stop this ANIMAL ABUSE. It will not be tolerated any longer.

PLEASE represent Australia and what we want to stand up for. Please make your voice heard and stand strong for what is right and BAN LIVE EXPORT IMMEDIATLEY!!

Naomi Annear