

SUBMISSION

I am aware that the focus of this review is on making it possible to continue the live animal export for slaughter trade. I wish to put forward the option of a complete ban on live animal export for slaughter.

DAFF - "Australia leads the world in animal welfare practices. The Australian Government does not tolerate cruelty towards animals and will not compromise on animal welfare standards"

Australia is the worlds largest live animal exporter for slaughter. Currently under State and Territory animal welfare legislation, it is not a legal requirement to comply with 'most' codes. The aim of the codes is to provide 'guidelines' for the humane and responsible treatment of livestock in Australia. The Government of the importing countries sets their own requirements in regard to the import of livestock. The Australian Government's jurisdiction over the animals ceases when disembarkation is complete. After disembarkation, the health and welfare of the livestock is the responsibility of the importer, under the authority of the importing country. Therefore, even Australia does not adhere to animal welfare laws and codes for livestock, so cannot guarantee animal welfare in any importing country. Australia has compromised on animal welfare standards since the inception of live animal export.

New Zealand banned live sheep export for slaughter in 2003 after 60,000 New Zealand sheep died on the Australian vessel Cormo Express. New Zealand banned all live animal export for slaughter in 2007.

When the New Zealand Government first banned live animal export for slaughter there was understandably huge opposition from the producers and exporters. New Zealand relies much more heavily than Australia on agriculture. New Zealand understood their international reputation and therefore their main income being agriculture (65%) was at stake if they did not ban live animal export for slaughter. Animal welfare is a big international issue and they did not want a bad international reputation and an economic backlash as they believe buyers won't take products with a bad image. New Zealand's agricultural industry is rated in billions of dollars with the live export market only realising millions representing a minor percentage of their industry and therefore the New Zealand people determined that the lucrative agricultural market was of higher benefit with live export.

New Zealand exports high value processed products to Europe, USA, Indonesia, Malaysia etc. New Zealand also has not exported jobs by banning live animal export for slaughter and believes live animal export for slaughter is the lowest form of commodity export, doing no processing of your product.

Korea also wanted live cattle for slaughter from New Zealand but New Zealand refused because of clear evidence of welfare abuse towards cattle.

I do not wish to address the terms of reference as not one of these terms can be adhered too, the only course of action Australia can take is the complete banning of all live animal export for slaughter.

Sandra Sims