

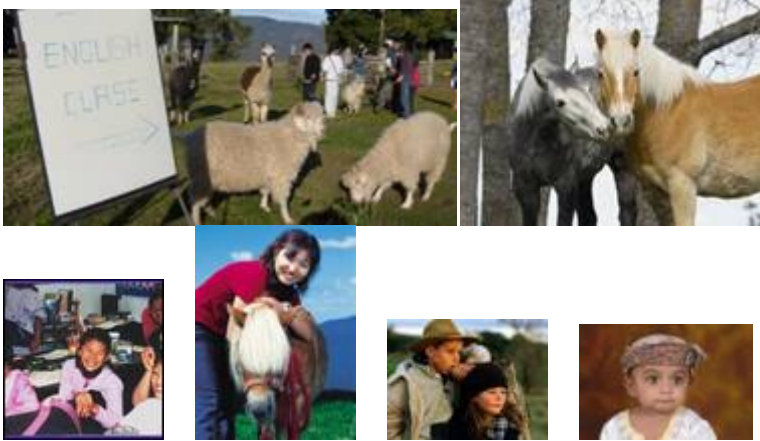
ALSO TO SUPPORT ALL BILLS TO BAN LIVE EXPORTS

ANIMAL WELFARE MUSLIM NSW AMAWA



SENATE ENQUIRY SUBMISSION

(AMAWA) AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION NSW in conjunction with AFIS PALE HQ QLD



IMPROVEMENTS IN ANIMAL WELFARE FOR AUSTRALIAN LIVE EXPORTS

AMAWA provides Animal Welfare Education services to the Muslim community & others in a manner that is in accordance with the teachings of Islam. **Our pledge** is provide support and to advocate on behalf of the Muslim community and work closely with RSPCA Guidelines.

We welcome the opportunity to submit our comments to the 2011 Inquiry into Live Exports

Animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets:

Reference Inquiry

On 16 June 2011 the Senate referred the improvements in animal welfare for Australian live exports for inquiry and report.

.

3 OTHER RELATED Matters

MLA FUNDING & Other Related Matters

(AMAWA) is the voice of main stream and multicultural people of the Australian public . They come from all walks of life. Some are farmers (many in fact) Lawyers, red meat industry ,police officers & kindergarten teachers,

Islamic teachers, Ministers, Mums and Dads. Aboriginal and Indigenous & regional communities are especially interested in our programme. We are not vegan vegetarian, although we have a many supporting as well. We feel it is detrimental to animals to lobby against people eating meat. A clear distinction also needs to be made between the views and representation from genuine animal welfare minded mainstream people versus the extreme and less representative views from animal rights and animal liberation groups.

Our programme includes (but not exclusively) working with the only Muslim Animal Welfare Association in Australia- and on behalf of its eight state and territory member bodies. A community-based NFP Society has been established in Australia for the purpose to assist Australian Farmers, Animal Welfare & Australia Agriculture. We are in a unique position to assist the Government and farming industry. Our urgent request to the government is more for cooperation & it falls within the guidelines under MLA funding within this inquiry. Above all we require people interested to promote – prospective investors and overseas meat purchasers for infrastructure into Australian abattoirs. This is not exclusively for Halal abattoirs but products Globally. We have contacts however require assistance to (meet and greet visitors) to Australia and delegates with view to build abattoirs. Our *preferred position* to this senate inquiry is to include in the MLA funding provisions to promote the opportunity's to open abattoirs here.

Under *current system*- there is nothing - so we turn to the Government and request within the funding of MLA to include a independent register to be established as a voice for the 92% of Australian Public who eat meat. We are quite happy to work alongside MLA to achieve this or by any other independent office established by government. Our voice includes many Australian farmers and producers.

Animals Australia WSPA RSPCA National have rejected invitations with Australian Muslim leaders & Saudi Malaysian Delegates etc to discuss the only programme in Australia to sensibly phase out the live trade as their position for years. Whilst we have managed to achieve a lot much more need to be done. So while we agree live exports is a dead end economy wise to Australia and inherently cruel were are frustrated by these groups in our efforts to build more abattoirs to give our farmers other alternatives.



MLA and Funding

Therefore our preferred objective is to submit to this inquiry request a part of MLA funding be used as separate unit either within MLA or a independent body. The duties of the unit to be marketing with us Australia's wonderful opportunity's to open abattoirs.

To expand funding (or take part of the funding) MLA funding to also work on this area - as well as any others simply makes good sense.

Funding should be available in our opinion to *all ends* of the meat trade and why not promote our beautiful country to open more abattoirs.

Especially so given our organisation works for free to assist farmers buyers and Government alike.

This is desperately required for farmers to work hand in hand to promote marketing opportunities to invite investment into Australia to build infrastructure for abattoirs and small good factories. Its duties to be included as well as promoting the sale of red meat marketing or live exports. Our organisation is happy to facilitate and cooperate to form such a unit with MLA or independent of MLA.

Australia has the best reputation for disease free top quality meat and products so why sell ourselves short

It is our view it is *impossible* to give a full report on MLA funding or any other type of marketing funding without including into that report the overall effect of the results of funding for marketing going into promoting live exports.

The fact we have `another inquiry into the industry& MLA we rely upon as proof. In 2000, the Australian Meat Processor Corporation concluded that the "live export trade could be costing Australia around \$1.5 billion in lost GDP, around \$270 million in household income, and around 10,500 lost jobs". Without factoring in all of the hidden costs and facts nobody can give a true report on marketing of the live exports trade.

Funding to MLA to promote `only live exports is `*not a level playing field* in our strong opinion or to pretend they are fixing animal welfare problems are misused funds. In establishing a another Senate inquiry with shortsightedly terms of reference to only comment of the way in which MLA has been handled- and where we can spend even more of the Australian tax payers and farmers levies sorely based on the same system is our opinion pointless and we need think how we can expand our marketing options for Australian Agriculture industry and think outside the box.

Our endeavours are slightly different to many because we are realistic and understand farmers are important part of Australia's industry.

Therefore PALE would like to see some MLA funding made available to extend our marketing opportunity's within MLA or any independent body set up for people, groups, farmers to work hand in hand to promote marketing opportunities to invite investment in Australia to built infrastructure for abattoirs.

We submit to the Senate Inquiry in regards to MLA & other bodies and government - There is a need for Australia's animal welfare provisions and funding to support those goals to be based on long term economical future for Australia, rather than emotion but with Animal welfare as a number one priority.

We will endeavour to discuss MLA & others funding to demonstrate how ineffective it is and also why even if we tripled the funding it will always fail. Our submission regarding funding to MLA & others relies upon fact to argue MLA and funding is a complete waste of money and to explain why. The government is talking about spending even more funds on marketing and research on the live animal trade.

It is as we understand it now saying that with more funding we can fix things.' The public are under no illusions we can NOT fix things that happen in another country- therefore to discuss funding solely without including other marketing strategies is unhelpful.

It is vital we start now in our opinion to offer several marketing practises instead of putting all our eggs in the one basket with relying on only spending funding for live exports. We need to expand our marketing for Australian agriculture.

If we are to be asked by this inquiry to offer submissions into the MLA funding then we must include the overall possible outcome of the end results. If we then take into consideration the MLA & other funding to this inquiry then we must be prepared while looking at the MLA funding but the possible outcomes of the funding into live exports

]

PALE refers to one of the submission just for one example of the Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA), Wool- Producers (WP) and Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) on the provisions of the National Animal Welfare Bill 2005 They stated =

1. To adopt basic guidelines it would effectively shut down Australia's valuable live export trade.

2 replace the Australian Government as the arbiter of live export standards and the issuing authority for all permits and licences.

2. There is a need for Australia's animal welfare provisions to be based on sound working practises and economical long term positive outcomes for Australia. and world-class science, rather than emotion.

We simply can't have some farmers who breed especially for these overseas markets holding any government to ransom with threats of dumping cattle on the lawns of parliament – blaming the government for taking steps to do something about the cruelty to our Australian farm animals. Threatening to starve and shoot cattle for the purpose of media coverage to hold a gun at the head of our Prime Minister –who ever that Prime Minister might be at the time.

They too must work with us to find alternatives and not ALL graziers are poor. Many are very wealthy. So they should be prepared to invest in Australia too.

Concerns that the live animal trade will have a long-term negative impact on the viability of Australian based abattoirs and meat processing works are increasingly being heard. Until recently, government and industry investigations into the issue have failed to critically assess the real nature of the equation at hand. However, a continuing insistence that because of this

the live trade continued to be in the best interests of the Australian economy (and therefore its people) is a leap too far. In continued support of the live trade, most proponents for the trade have asserted that the ability to substitute a chilled meat/carcass trade for the current live animal trade is minimal, if not non-existent.

According to this logic, if Australian producers were to stop exporting live animals, an initial rise in slaughter would occur, followed by a gradual decline back to a point where meat exports were only slightly above the amount when live exports existed. Therefore, it was reasoned, a ban on live exports is not in the interests of the Australian producer or economy. These assertions of non-substitutability have then been further perpetuated by logistical 'furfies,' such as lack of refrigeration at destination, or the need for traditionally slaughtered *Halal* meat within the Middle East.

As current details of Australia's meat exports indicate, these assertions are no longer valid:

- A large proportion of Australian export licensed abattoirs employ *Halal*-accredited slaughtermen;
- Many of the Middle Eastern nations that import live animals also import chilled meat from Australia.

At the peak of Australia's live sheep export trade with Saudi Arabia, there were over 3 million sheep being exported annually to that country alone. When the effect of the Saudis' 1989 ban on exports came fully into place, the exports of chilled meat/ carcasses to Saudi Arabia more than tripled in the years to follow. This is one significant example that destroys the assertion of minimal substitution, as advanced by the live animal export lobby.

- Modern food handling and cold storage in most Middle Eastern countries has also significantly decreased the need to keep imported Australian meat fresh by shipping the animals alive to destination.

The means of distribution and points of sale of refrigerated meat within these countries is constantly enlarging and, as the example of Saudi Arabia indicates, the possibility of substituting chilled meat exports for live animals is potentially both great and lucrative. The debate over live exports back on home ground has been mainly one-sided, fueled by the lobbyists for the trade, Government support and those who have invested in its infrastructure, such as the hundreds of trucking concerns that move live animals to ports.

Animal welfarists and trade unionists have consistently raised a more critical perspective of live exports. The wider community's active detestation of the trade has usually only come to the fore with the reports of large scale animal deaths and suffering, as a result of live exports.

Dr Hussain

Treasurer

(AMAWA) AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION NSW