

SUBMISSION TO SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES ON RURAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT

Our Various pastoral businesses fully support the live animal export **industries** of Australia.
For the Following reasons:

- This industry and those involved with it, yields considerable income into Australia every year along with jobs involved in it.
- By its very existence it ensures the price return for farmers/producers is some 3-5% higher than they would otherwise obtain.
- Australia, as a food producer to Middle East and Asian markets, provides live product to facilitate their cultural practices, festive requirements, and religious slaughter requirements, together with wet meat product supply where there is no refrigeration.
- It also enables Australia, which has the highest Animal welfare regulations in the world, to educate and train others in correct welfare animal handling. This is not a concern of other exporting countries who are interested in the \$ only.
- Allows the population of some 35-40% of Australia's area to participate in the cattle grazing industry, where there are no processing facilities visa abattoirs.
- Involves a very significant proportion of our indigenous population with the running of cattle stations across our north of which the statistics are outstanding.

THREATS TO THIS IMPORTANT TRADE

- Serious concerns have been set out with regards to new enquiries/review, leading to increased and complicated regulations and restrictions. The industry has too many hoops to jump through as it is. **Further** regulations will result in increased costs to the industry and past reviews have done just that!
- Poor and overreacting political actions, being effected recently, with enormous diplomatic damage must be avoided at all costs, as there were several courses of action that should have been considered. Contingency plans, should problems arise within an importing country must be in place before shipment commences.

Large stock RFID traceability is required, while small stock, sheep and goats require MOB base traceability but **not** RFID tags.

Adequate auditing of importing countries facilities and food chain to slaughter should be included, as in Indonesia.

Importing countries culture must be respected with regard to increasing/improving animal welfare standard with emphasis on:

Awareness, training resumes and provision of **necessary infrastructure** between the two countries concerned.

GENERAL

Government must be mindful that the Indonesian cattle live export issue, resulted in the producer/supplier/1st owner of the animals being blamed and called “cruel to animals” etc, when in fact, **ownership has passed three times** since being exported from Australia. This phenomenon is extremely unfair. Our practices of rearing quality animals, transporting them with weight gain enroute and losses of less than 1% and 1st rate feed lot conditions speak for our Australian input very loudly. Little recognition is being afforded us here.

Government owned ABC program “Four Corners” should be thoroughly investigated over this sensational journalism, using old footage and in many cases “not Australian animals”. **Payment of the perpetrators and entry by stealth in the first instance should not be acceptable to any government or persons.** Not a “good look” but what of the damage to our industry at the unreliable hands of the ABC in the **absence of credibility checks!**

IN SUMMARY

Our objectives:

- Surely must be to support and improve the live export trade but only while fully understanding the sensitivities of other sovereign nation’s precious religious and cultural practises, and our negotiative ability to work with diplomacy.
- Must avoid over regulation and “red tape” that will surely stymie and restrict trade. This is very important.
- Put in place a full and comprehensive study/report into the importance of the trade’s existence, in all its particular facets across Australia.

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