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### **Submission - Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets**

The live animal trade is a disaster and MLA and LiveCorp are ultimately responsible for the current mess. By turning a blind eye to the seriously cruel animal welfare issues, they are the ones who have jeopardised the industry. The Australian Government had no choice but to put in place an immediate suspension of trade to Indonesia after the Four Corners footage was released. Of course this caused an absolute uproar to those with vested interests in this horrific business, however it was the right thing to do until the actual situation could be ascertained, appropriate investigations made and viable solutions implemented. The announced resumption of trade after such a short timeframe was a major disappointment. It is questionable as to the purpose of the suspension when nothing appears to have been established in order to ensure the welfare of Australian animals.

It appears that self regulation and the reduction of government involvement in the live animal export trade has proven to be ineffective and inadequate. These organisations cannot be trusted and the damage has been done. Any apparent progress that MLA and LiveCorp claim to have made is of little significance and has taken far too long to implement. Besides these organisations' ineffectiveness, the countries we are exporting our animals to have no consideration for animal welfare and treat them with no respect whatsoever. Whatever supposed training MLA and LiveCorp have provided, does not appear to have been taken up and been of any value. The facilities they have helped to implement in Indonesia only work to compound the cruel slaughtering practises utilised by the Indonesians. The method of "casting" is condemned by the world leader in animal slaughtering practices, Dr Temple Grandin, who stated that trip boxes should never be used when slaughtering a fully conscious animal.

The live animal trade is inherently cruel and no animal should ever be treated with such disregard. For humans to subject animals to these conditions and ill treatment is unforgiveable and unconscionable.

We have a duty to ensure our animals are in the best care right to the very end. They have a right to die in the quickest and least painful way. This dignity and respect is not given to them in these importing countries, and the MLA and LiveCorp have condoned this inexcusable state of affairs.

I hope that live animal exports will be banned outright. The Australian people are innovative enough to be able to find workarounds and satisfactory solutions once this ban is in place.

Yours sincerely

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