

Australia's live animal export industry employs 13,000 Australians and contributes \$1.8 billion to Australia's GDP each year. It is an important industry that needs to be maintained. Rural communities across northern Australia are very reliant on the livestock export trade for income and employment. The trade also provides employment and training opportunities for remote Indigenous communities in the north of Australia.<sup>3</sup>

There are limited opportunities for other industries in vast areas of Northern Australia. The Indigenous Land Corporation operates 12 pastoral businesses in Northern Australia managing 2.3 million hectares of land and giving productive and worthwhile employment to many indigenous people.

With no beef processing facilities in NT, and WA having just one in the south west of the state, if there was no livestock export trade, cattle would likely be moved long distances south and east, with northern producers either directly or indirectly bearing the transport costs. <sup>Not</sup> only cost but the cattle of northern Australia are bred to suit the local hot climate and originate in the tropics. Indonesia is a very efficient producer of animal feed and is a more suited climatic zone for them to be fattened in than southern Australia. There is mutual benefit to Australian breeders and Indonesian feedlots to produce cheap protein for our near neighbors.

The key element of concern is the seeming need of the government to guarantee the well being of export animals to appease single focus interest groups. This was brought on by 4corners program that focused on horrific treatment and implied it was the normal way Australian live export cattle were treated in all Indonesian abattoirs.

No country has the capacity to exert such minute controls over its trading partners.

Our Government today cannot prevent a child from being abused; it cannot stop incidents of food poisoning occurring in our fast food trade; it cannot prevent rorting of fuel prices; it can't make sure pensioners have enough to eat, or that no Australian child is going to live in poverty.