

Submission to: The Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee, Canberra

Topic: **Animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets.**

Date: 5 July, 2011

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our submission to your committee.

Here are the main points;

- By allowing such cruelty to be perpetrated upon Australian cattle in Indonesia and upon sheep in the ships and in the Middle East, Australia gets the reputation as a country that is cruel to animals. Temple Grandin, the world authority on cattle handling and international slaughter guidelines, said that she was shocked to see a developed country build and equip such "really horrible facilities" (*Weekend Australian*, 25-25 June, 2011, p. 5). Such bad reputations are extremely difficult to rectify. To compete successfully for world markets Australia needs a good reputation as a caring, humane and reliable provider of healthy and ethically-processed meat.
- Australia can increase its income hugely by slaughtering its cattle, sheep, goats and camels in Australia, and exporting meat that is chilled, frozen or dried. New Zealand did this in 2007, and continues to gain huge income from processed and value-added meat.
- If modern abattoirs are built to slaughter ALL Australian animals here in Australia, replacing those closed in the north of the country by the live animal export trade after 1981, it will provide many opportunities for employment in the Kimberley, Northern Territory and Queensland. Further, the animals bred specifically for overseas markets, such as Brahmin cattle (*bos indicus*), will have shorter distances to travel which will please farmers, because it will be less costly for them, and also less worry for the animals. Indonesia has already moved to stimulate its own fresh meat industry, by restricting the size of animals it imports from Australia and creating jobs for its grass and feed suppliers. The argument that refrigeration is not available in Indonesia is spurious, as about one-fifth of the population uses a mobile phone which has to be charged by electricity.
- Employment will be greatly enhanced in northern Australian pastures and abattoirs, providing young, older and Indigenous people with training, skills, and competencies in a growing and healthy pastoral industry. These jobs include animal handling prior to the abattoir, electronically tagging the animals from birth to the table, slaughtering and processing the meat, and transporting it to ports or airports.
- All abattoirs in Australia need to stun all animals PRIOR to slaughter. There should be no exceptions for any reason. Otherwise, this makes Australian law look completely ridiculous. Muslims in Australia generally accept the stunning of animals BEFORE cutting the throat and bleeding of *halal* meat. However, kosher slaughter, where stunning is prohibited, the upright animal's throat is cut with light pressure on the blade so it bleeds while conscious, and dirt covers the blood, is completely abhorrent to almost every Australian. This barbaric practice is banned in Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland, and should be banned here also.
- There is a saying that 'The test of a civilized society is the way it treats its animals'. Australia must legally enforce the PRIOR stunning of ALL Australian sheep, cattle, camels and goats in ALL Australian abattoirs, and prevent the torturous death of our animals overseas, to show evidence that Australia is a country of sound ethical values that cares about the welfare of its animals.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. J D G Goldman, PhD

C. Collier Harris, BA First Class Honours and University Medal,