

Re Senate Inquiry into live exports report due by 25 August 2011 and Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [no2] due 16 August 2011

Dear Senators

Australia is largely a community brought up on the premise that cruelty to any animal is unlawful and the community will punish those who offend.

As a result we cannot close our eyes to the severe animal cruelty being suffered by animals exported live by Australia to other destinations and pretend that the benefits from these exports enable us to close our eyes to the horrors being endured by many of our exported animals.

It is clear from all reports that the MLA and Livecorp have totally failed to oversee basic safeguards to our exported animals and clearly an independent body to manage the welfare of exported animals is now a 100% necessity, not just an option.

Those who are connected with the live animal export trade, which has so poorly failed the community expectations of basic humane treatment of animals, have abrogated any rights to participate in such an oversight.

We therefore urge all Senators to support a properly funded body, independent of the live export industry and Governments to report publically to Governments on the standards of animal welfare exported from Australia and to support the end date for all live animal exports within 3 years.

Please remember, Senators, that throat cutting without stunning does not induce instant unconsciousness and this method of ritual slaughter is cruel to animals. We don't think you personally would do it to any animal of yours so don't let others do it to exported Australian livestock.

Thank you,

George Palmer and Susan Goadby