

Meat & Livestock Australia

May 2011 issue of their member magazine Feedback reports on page 10 on “Animal welfare improvements in livestock export markets” and focuses on Indonesia. An independent assessment of conditions for Australian cattle exported to Indonesia from point of arrival to slaughter has found animal welfare was generally good throughout the supply chain.

The study assessed 17 Indonesian facilities and made recommendations for further improvements by extending existing welfare and training programs such as

- training for truck drivers, handlers and slaughtermen
- introducing rest points for long-haul journeys
- extending technical support to feedlots to include more nutritional/ration information
- delivering more training for abattoir workers on correct procedures for processing Australian animals.

Ongoing work in live export markets

In conjunction with LiveCorp and the Australian Government, MLA invests about \$3million annually into animal welfare programs, including a focus on stock management, infrastructure development and training supply chain personnel.

Michael Finucan, MLA Livestock Exports Manager, said the industry works with local operators and government authorities in major export destinations to improve animal handling and processing facilities.

“Most importantly, MLA works on the ground to educate local workers across the Middle East and South-East Asia on how to correctly handle and manage Australian livestock” he said.

In Indonesia, ten new cattle restraining boxes were installed (to now total 109) and standard operating procedure training for new boxes was undertaken at fifty locations.

More Information

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Independent study in animal welfare condition for Australian cattle in Indonesia:
www.daff.gov.au/data/assets/pdf/0005/1886477/indonesia.pdf

Note: I could not find this link – perhaps it has been removed.

MLA also states that “the livestock export trade to Indonesia is vital to the economy and in particular to producers. Producers in the north of Australia are almost solely reliant on the trade, however all of the industry benefits as over half a million animals travel to Indonesia rather than flow onto southern markets.”

This article is an indictment of the pathetic efforts by MLA to manage animal welfare issues to a satisfactory standard in Indonesia.

The Land p 20, June 30, 2011, John Carter reports on an individual effort to improve animal welfare in India with the use of stun guns twenty-one years ago by animal

rights activist, Christine Townend, under the auspices of UN Food & Agric Organization (FAO).

Carol Richard