

## **Live Export Submission from Tracey Paterson**

Words cannot describe how disgusted and outraged I am that our government allows and assists the live export industry to exist. I find it unacceptable for Australia to continue the live animal export trade in the knowledge that we can never ensure the wellbeing of our animals from the moment they leave our shores.

I have been an opponent of all live export for many years, and now the time has come for all thinking Australians to stand up and demand an end to this trade.

There are alternatives and they must be implemented. The suffering of these poor animals is unacceptable and it is un-Australian to let it continue. The "gradual change" proposed by the Livecorp CEO is not only absolute rubbish, but is no help to the thousands of animals who will have to go through their own experience of torture and suffering. It is not just the shockingly poor handling at the destination. Many thousands of sheep and cattle die every year during the journey by ship. Conditions on board, disease, heat exhaustion, thirst, suffocation, crush injuries, feed issues, and lack of adequate veterinary care are some of the many problems awaiting the animals.

This inhumane treatment of Australian animals will continue day after day and night after night unless we close down the live trade once and for all. The public outrage has been mounting and there are many of us who will not let this issue slip into the background again.

It is very clear that the authorities involved cannot be trusted to do the right thing by the animals, so it is now up to the voters to make their views heard. No amount of money, nor any religious tradition, is justification for pain and cruelty.

The chilled meat trade, already worth more than the live export trade, is the obvious solution. Not only would the animals be slaughtered humanely under Australian laws, but many jobs would be created for Australian workers. Abattoirs that had previously been shut down could be reopened and Australia would benefit in economic terms, as well as gaining a better animal welfare reputation around the world.

The reality is, no matter what the exporters and MLA say they will improve, they have shown over many years that they cannot be trusted, and have not acted morally or responsibly.

We cannot send animals to other countries where stunning is not mandatory. It is not acceptable to Australians to have animals treated in such a cruel way. It is also extremely upsetting that we were only made aware of the horrendous cruelty in Indonesian slaughter houses by a report on ABC television. To learn that the torture and deliberate cruelty we witnessed are occurring as part of normal handling practices, and have been for many years, is outrageous to say the very least. Similar atrocities occur in the Middle East, and now that more of the general public are aware of this, there will be more pressure on our government to act now to ban the live trade.

The time has come for Australia and our government to do the right thing and end live export, just as our New Zealand neighbours have.

I look forward to this review returning a positive outcome for the millions of Australian animals it will affect, and to the government realising that their objective of establishing safeguards is out of step with the community's demand for an **end** to live exports.

Regards,

Tracey Paterson

NB: I am concerned that this submission process has been insufficiently advertised. I would strongly recommend an extension to the submission period, with broader advertising, so that more concerned Australians have the opportunity to voice their opinion on this matter.