

Animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets.

I would like to make a submission relating to animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets.

That our livestock is to this day being slaughtered in foreign abattoirs in a most barbaric and cruel manner is testament to the fact that such practices have not changed, despite many years of protest and assurances to the contrary, and will likely continue in the future.

I have listened to media interviews with various Australian politicians and representatives from the Australian cattle industry who claim that banning live exports to Indonesia will not stop this cruelty, as Indonesia will simply get their livestock from other countries and continue with the same practices. This does not lend credibility to the claims by Indonesia that inhumane practices will stop if Australia's live trade is restarted.

In another media interview, an Australian politician stated that should Indonesia secure live cattle from other countries, Foot and Mouth disease would be "on our door step".

I would think that if Indonesia doesn't want their meat industry decimated by Foot and Mouth disease, then they would be well advised to make whatever changes are necessary in order to resume trade with Australia, where, due to world's best practice, our livestock remains disease-free.

I urge you to follow the lead of New Zealand and ban live exports.

Respectfully,

Julie Dolan