

Improvements in animal welfare for Australian live exports

Terms of Reference

On 16 June 2011, the Senate moved that the following matters be referred to the Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 August 2011:

1. Investigate and report into the role and effectiveness of Government, Meat and Livestock Australia, Livecorp and relevant industry bodies in improving animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets, including:

- a) The level, nature and effectiveness of expenditure and efforts to promote or improve animal welfare standards with respect to all Australian live export market countries;
 - i) expenditure and efforts on marketing and promoting live export to Australian producers;
 - ii) ongoing monitoring of the subscription to, and practise of, animal welfare standards in all live export market countries;
 - iii) actions to improve animal welfare outcomes in all other live export market countries and the evidence base for these actions.
- b) The extent of knowledge of animal welfare practices in Australia's live export markets including:
 - i) formal and informal monitoring and reporting structures;
 - ii) formal and informal processes for reporting and addressing poor animal welfare practices.

2. Investigate and report on the domestic economic impact of the live export trade within Australia including:

- a) Impact on regional and remote employment especially in northern Australia;
- b) Impact and role of the industry on local livestock production and prices;
- c) Impact on the processing of live stock within Australia.

3. Other related matters.

Personally I am appalled at the inhumane treatment towards all animals exported to all countries for many years now. They suffer the trauma of transportation where many die and then suffer a painful and terrifying death at their destination. If these animals were slaughtered in Australia the practice would be executed in a very professional manner with regard to the animals' welfare. By using Australia abattoirs it would provide employment here and live animal transport costs would be reduced considerably. When a live animal is purchased overseas it is then disposed at the will of the owner with no regard to the suffering of the victim. I implore you to please cease the export of all animals to all countries as soon as possible.