

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

To whom it may concern,

*Re: On 16 June 2011, the Australian Greens' motion for a Senate Inquiry into live exports was successfully passed and, as a result, the Senate referred the improvements in animal welfare for Australian live exports for inquiry and report by 25th August, 2011.*

*On 23 June 2011, the Senate jointly referred the Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2], and the Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2] for inquiry and report by August 16, 2011.*

I thank you for the opportunity to present this submission, on both of the above, to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport, and affirm my support for an immediate ban on all live export to Indonesia and Kuwait, and a total and unequivocal end to all live export, world-wide, within twelve months.

Due to your submission deadline of Friday, July 15, 2011, I respectfully request your acceptance of the following format. It consists of two emails, both of which went to all Federal MPs and Senators, and State Premiers and Ministers, on the dates indicated, plus two letters to the Prime Minister - see below.

Also, as part of my submission, I would ask that the Committees read the attached article, and view the attached video.

Further, to avoid the potential for, and appearance of, a conflict of interest for a Minister responsible for both the financial interests associated with exploitation of livestock, and their welfare, I support the establishment of an Australian Animal Welfare Council. Such a council should be an independent body to manage animal welfare funding, and provide accurate independent advice to Government on animal welfare matters.

### Email 1

Saturday, June 18, 2011 1:12 PM

To whom it may concern,

I sincerely hope that you watched "4 Corners" and availed yourself of the vast media coverage that followed. I then imagine that you would be hard pressed not to be equally upset and outraged, as the rest of the nation, by the unbelievable cruelty exposed.

Would you, then, kindly take a moment to read the attached copy of my letter to Julia Gillard on this matter?

I understand also, that historic members bills, to completely phase out the cruel trade, were announced and will be submitted to federal parliament by Andrew Wilkie, Nick Xenophon, and the Australian Greens on June 20.

People of all political persuasions, politicians from all sides, farmers - even Australian abattoir workers are appalled by the unmerciful torture suffered by these animals, and have demanded an end to the trade, and to process on shore.

I respectfully ask you to look to your conscience.  
Please support these bills, and put an historic and total end to this barbaric disgrace.

Yours faithfully,

Cheryl Forrest-Smith

Email 2

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Dear Sir, Madam,

I sincerely hope that you watched "4 Corners" and availed yourself of the vast media coverage that followed.

I then imagine that you would be hard pressed not to be equally upset and outraged, as the rest of the nation, by the unbelievable cruelty exposed.

Would you also kindly take a moment to view the brief video attached?

People of all political persuasions, politicians from all sides, farmers - even Australian abattoir workers are appalled by the unmerciful brutality suffered by these animals, and have demanded an end to the trade, and to process on shore.

On the ships alone, tens of thousands of animals die for a range of reasons including heat stress, starvation, overcrowding, suffocation, terror and disease. Those that survive await an unimaginably cruel fate. As long as there is live export, there will be suffering on a scale that no civilised society should tolerate.

Meat and Livestock Australia, and LiveCorp, well and truly proved that they can't be trusted. Ample evidence is now readily available that confirms that for over three decades, they were entirely aware of the abuse. Further, they actually supplied restraint boxes that entrench inhumane slaughtering. These boxes have been denounced

by international experts, and breach every humane standard world-wide.

Well-documented evidence also makes clear that abattoir workers in destination countries have a high turn-over of unskilled, and temporary employees. During handling and slaughter, these employees routinely subject animals to torture techniques. Prior to slaughter, on a nightly basis, slashing of tendons, eye gouging and/or stabbing the eyes, is used to force them to move into the slaughter position.

Economically speaking, three separate reports, over the past two years, have confirmed that live exports are undermining Australia's meat processing industry - an industry five times more lucrative than live exports. ACIL Tasman's reviews found that phasing out live sheep exports would have minimal impact on farmers, and would actually reap greater benefits, for farmers and the economy, through increased processing in Australia.

Australia's major meat processors have confirmed that Australia has the capacity to process all cattle and sheep currently going to live export.

I respectfully ask you to look to your conscience.  
Please do whatever you can, in whatever capacity,  
to put an historic and total end to this barbaric disgrace.

Yours faithfully,

Cheryl Forrest-Smith

Letter 1

Tuesday, June 07, 2011

The Honourable Julia Gillard, MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gillard,

Re: Live Export

I am extremely disappointed that you, as our Prime Minister, have not spoken out on the issue of live export to Indonesia.

The footage supplied by Animals Australia to "4 Corners", has shocked and outraged people from all walks of life,  
and politicians from all sides, across the entire nation.

Despite assurances from the industry, from the very beginning of the trade, animals have been the victims

of horrendous cruelty and appalling suffering, both on the ships and at their destination – and, by being well aware, therefore, makes the industry, and the Australian government, complicit in this evil.

Over the years, crews have abandoned ships on fire, leaving thousands of sheep to burn alive. Individuals and slaughterhouses in the Middle East treated our animals so brutally, a ban was enforced in Egypt, and Jordan demolished many of its' slaughterhouses, and introduced mandatory pre-stunning.

This is all thanks, not to government, not to the industry, but to courageous souls in animal welfare organisations, exposing themselves to considerable danger, and images, sounds, and smells that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

The catalogue of atrocities is endless, and it is a disgrace, but we appear to have learnt nothing.

Please show the leadership and courage expected from the Prime Minister of Australia, and ban all live export – unequivocally.

Yours faithfully,

Cheryl Forrest-Smith

Letter 2

Monday, July 4, 2011

The Honourable Julia Gillard, MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Live Export

May I offer my gratitude, and support to you for involving yourself on this issue, and for seriously addressing the situation with an immediate ban to Indonesia, and with such generous financial assistance – Despite the fact that, Meat and Livestock Australia, should bear the brunt of all compensation.

But, my God! - What do you have to do to appease these fickle recipients? How quickly they have shifted their reactions of distress and outrage, on viewing the horrendous footage. How rich to now cry poor when they all knew, for thirty years, the brutally cruel fate awaiting the animals they actually supplied.

It is due to their callous indifference and self interest that producers, MLA, LiveCorp, and government, are in this situation today. From the very beginning, we have received assurances that animal welfare was a priority, but the vicious and savage treatment continues unabated, and on a scale we can't imagine.

The reality is that massive, and entrenched cruelty and suffering, is inherent in the live export trade, world-wide. From transportation over enormous distances, in both Australia and on the ships, to handling, to slaughter - It is a journey from hell. It can never be any other way.

Economically speaking, three separate reports, over the past two years, favour on shore processing, and Australia's major meat processors confirm that they have the capacity to process all cattle and sheep going to live export.

Know that the vast majority of Australians not only support a total ban, but the introduction of mandatory pre-stunning in this country.

Here is an opportunity to go beyond the politics, look to your conscience, and make history.

Yours faithfully,  
Cheryl Forrest-Smith

Please see attached email to Federal MPs, State Premiers and Senators,  
And please take a moment to view the brief video <http://www.vimeo.com/25066825>