

LIVE EXPORT

We are absolutely appalled that our country continues to endorse the live export trade. Evidence has been submitted to the Australian Government, time and time again, showing graphic detail of the cruel and unnecessary suffering of animals shipped around the world for the 'benefit' of the Australian economy.

We ask that the Australian government cease live export trade immediately – failure to do so constitutes implicit support of these atrocities. These are Australian animals.....we would not condone these acts of cruelty within our own country, so why does the Australian Government condone this treatment to Australian animals simply because they are no longer on our soil?

The Australian Government recently threw away \$45 million on a bid for the Soccer World Cup when there was very little real chance that we would ever be granted host nation status. If we can afford to spend tax payers' money so frivolously, surely some funding can be made available to address this disgusting practice such as reviving abattoirs in the top end and out west to process livestock humanely. The chilled meat industry is an industry which already brings millions of dollars into the country...surely this can be expanded?

We cannot support a Government who puts money ahead of animal welfare....the evidence is overwhelming that animal welfare standards are not being adhered to in this industry. We think you would find most Australians would agree. In this day and age, ethical and moral issues should far outweigh any financial gain.

We understand the need to protect Australian farmers, but there is absolutely no excuse for animal cruelty. In fact a number of Australian farmers are quite distressed having learnt of the mistreatment and abuse of their animals. A total ban will send a clear message that Australia will not accept these practices on any level. Already it is evident that domestic meat sales are down by 10 to 15% as a result of the public outcry.

It is time that the Australian Government listened to the people. The current Labor Government did not receive a mandate from the people at the last election and is in fact very fortunate to hold the balance of power. There is an overwhelming response and sense of outrage over this issue from the electorate. Please do the Australian public the courtesy of listening to their voice and ending this abhorrent trade.

Tracey and John Fraser