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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
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Submission to the Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets

After viewing the footage of the treatment of animals in Indonesian abattoirs, I have come to the conclusion that live animal exports must come to an end. The footage was gut wrenching and painful to watch and I can only imagine the pain and suffering those poor defenceless animals must have felt. This footage ignited my interest in live animal export and I discovered the terrible history of the trade. So much suffering and inhumane treatment, with complete disregard for the animal's welfare has sickened me.

From shipping to the abattoirs, the suffering these animals endure is terrible. There is not enough adequate regulation and enforcement in place to ensure the animals are well looked after on their journeys. Self regulation leaves the industry open to inexcusable actions. There is not enough independence to ensure those with self interests are not taking advantage of the loopholes of the system and the reliance on honesty again leaves the industry open and vulnerable.

It is even worse for the animals once they reach their destinations, having the misfortune of being shipped to countries like Indonesia and those in the Middle East, where no regard, consideration or care is given to the animal and they are slaughtered in a painful and heinous manner. It appears anyone can purchase our animals and slaughter them in their own backyards or even public toilets, even though training, traceability and other measures have been put in place. The pictures I have seen disgust me.

Meat and Livestock Australia and LiveCorp need to be held accountable for all that is wrong with the industry. They cannot claim that they did not know of the goings on. Especially when they installed the Mark 1 boxes after there were issues with the quality of meat of our cattle. One can only imagine the torture those animals endured if the Mark 1 boxes are supposed to be an improvement. These 2 organisations have damaged the reputation of

our industry, they are the ones who caused this mess and they need to be investigated. Their negligence must not be allowed to slide by.

I cannot believe that the Australian Government has agreed to allow this trade to continue so soon after shutting down the trade. It cannot be possible that adequate measures have been put in place in the space of 5 weeks that will ensure our animals' welfare is paramount. There will be no mandatory stunning and Mark 1 boxes will be continued to be used. How will we ever be able to enter an abattoir again to assess suitability and adherence? And what a headache traceability will be, that has been shown to not be as effective as the industry claims it to be.

By continuing to allow our animal to be subjected to this cruel treatment and terrible conditions is a disgrace.

Yours sincerely

Kieren Henderson