

To whom it may concern,

Please accept my submission below in relation to the review of Australia's livestock export trade herewith:

The export of live cattle from Australia cannot be allowed in good conscience to continue. It is clear that from recent investigations into the practices of various countries that it cannot be guaranteed that even the lowest standards of acceptable humane slaughter practices in overseas abattoirs can be maintained.

The public outcry against the brutality faced by cattle in overseas abattoirs from the majority of Australians, including those from the cattle industry is in clear support of a complete ban on live exports. Australia prides itself on high standards for slaughter and these should not be compromised for the sake of economics or political reasons. We should not bow down the demands of overseas countries on this issue - just as we would not accept injustices against people we should therefore refuse to tolerate inhumane practices against animals.

As it has become clear that we are not able to guarantee the humane treatment of cattle when they leave Australia, we cannot continue to allow live exports to continue. I find it extremely upsetting that Meat and Livestock Australia and the Government had apparent knowledge of the brutal treatment of cattle at overseas abattoirs and allowed it to continue unabated, and continued to accept levies and taxes from Australian cattle producers in good faith and failed to ensure that those monies were being used for animal welfare programs overseas. To add insult to injury, MLA appears to be providing little financial support to the those in the cattle industry who have been affected by the ban - despite having collected millions from taxing the very people who it is supposed to support. As a result it is fair to say that as an Australian I have no faith in the industry bodies and therefore do not believe that they will effectively stamp out cruel practices in overseas abattoirs in the future. Therefore a complete ban is the only solution.

Australia has such a high standard of beef and cattle production when it comes to quality, disease free meat that the export trade in frozen meat should suffice to replace the live cattle trade. Cattle produced, reared and slaughtered in Australia to our high standard will produce jobs and economic stimulus to the local economy.

For myself personally, I find it abhorrent to allow this trade to continue knowing what we know of standards overseas and what is faced by animals and it is for this reason and the reasons above that I make this submission to the review on livestock export. I will never forget the extremely distressing and horrific images presented in recent media programs and I urge the Government to act against the possibility of such brutality ever happening again by banning live cattle exports.

Yours faithfully,

Caitlin Harvey