

I am a northern grazier.

I too was affected by how our cattle are treated in Indonesia, shocked by how our nurtured animals are handled, and believe MLA needs to provide a transparency as to where our \$5 head is in fact going. I do not believe we will change anything in Indonesia soon - we can neither change a population's culture nor its attitude to animals overnight.

Most northern graziers direct their cattle, either directly or indirectly toward the live export trade - there is no where else for a lot of these cattle to go with meatworks now few and far between.

Perhaps the answer is to end live export, restart northern meatworks, or export chilled beef if their power/refrigeration issues were addressed.

BUT CHANGES TAKE TIME.

Can you people who support an immediate ban on live export not see the results of what you are demanding? You think that there is cruelty to animals in Indonesia, understand what we will have to see and do to those poor starving breeders and calves going into the dry season that no longer have any grass because of those huge numbers of younger stronger 'export' cattle now accumulating. These will prevent us from rotational grazing and other land and grass management tools that we use to care for our country.

Let me describe for you the effect of a dry season on an overstocked property. The grazier (all whingers of course) who can now not afford to pay for help cannot manage to oversee all his stock let alone supplement all of them. Of the weaker cows, the lucky ones get found and shot. The unlucky ones go down for days, undiscovered, and may have their eyes pecked out by crows and their backsides removed by dingoes while they are still alive, or they get bogged in diminishing waterholes trying to get a drink. It is heartbreaking.

Then, if there are still too many cattle on one's property by the wet season, the grass cannot grow sufficiently for the following dry season.

The fellow in WA who was going to shoot 3000 head was going to be one of many.

The grazier is not whinging - most are asset rich, cash poor and very distressed by his animals suffering.

You people who support an immediate ban to live export in your naivity are committing so many cattle to this kind of torture.

You cannot just end an industry that has developed even if in recent years, until the wheels have been set in motion to replace that market. Surely that is economic common sense.

Ms Helen Kozicka