

To the Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport

I am writing to express my disbelief that the live export industry is able to significantly improve animal welfare during any stage of the export and slaughter process. It is my belief that MLA and Livecorp have been aware of terrible atrocities within their industry for at least 11 years and in this time have been unable and/or unwilling to implement any significant positive changes. Instead, MLA have spent money and time developing and implementing the Mark 1 restraint box which in itself does not improve animal welfare in the slightest and in fact adds to the problem. Out of total expected earnings of \$173m for 2010-11 MLA only planned to spend \$3.4m on animal welfare improvements versus \$23m on marketing beef exports. Surely this illustrates that MLA are more concerned with profits than the welfare of the animals they handle. The MLA chairman, Mr Don Heatley said himself: "We can't change hundreds and hundreds of years of customs overnight." Of course they can't, and neither can any other organisation.

The only way to ensure significant and necessary improvements in animal welfare within the live export industry is to end it completely. As a first world country that should be leading the way in animal welfare, Australia needs to ban the live export of all animals to all destinations as soon as possible. I do not wish to be ruled by a government that places profits before animal welfare and provides subsidies to the live export industry.

Yours sincerely  
Pamela Oates