

Submission to the inquiry into animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets

I am writing to request the government reinstate the ban of live trade to Indonesia to prevent the continued appalling and inhumane treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia.

I ask the Parliament to support the passage of the *Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No.2]* (Cth) and the *Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2]* (Cth).

In the interim years, I ask and recommend that the Australian Government together with the industry implement the highest standards of animal welfare, which are confirmed to go beyond those set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

World leading expert in animal behaviour, Professor Temple Grandin, has reported that research shows that throat-cutting without stunning does not induce instantaneous unconsciousness. The recent investigation in Indonesia by Animals Australia revealed that cattle, whilst fully conscious, were suffering an average of 11 cuts to the throat and often many minutes of pain, thrashing and bellowing before then losing consciousness. It is clear that ritual slaughter remains to submit animals to cruelty and is inhumane.

If the government maintains live cattle export, they must include a guarantee that slaughter without stunning (known in most cases as ritual (halal or kosher) slaughter) will *not* occur.

The recent concern about live export, a federal animal welfare responsibility, highlights the need for a national agency to address animal welfare issues. In light of the recent situation of the treatment of Australian cattle exported to Indonesia, and the recent reporting of the lack of credible research into slaughter of such cattle in Indonesia, it is clear that Australia needs a Non-Departmental Public Body to review and recommend advice on animal welfare matters. I recommend the establishment of an *Australian Animal Welfare Council* to provide accurate independent advice on animal welfare matters.

Many thanks for your consideration of this submission.