

To whom it SHOULD concern,

Never have I been so ashamed to be an Australian. I appeal to you to take a stand against an industry that favours monetary profit above ethics and morality. The live export industry is a fundamentally flawed mechanism that subjects animals to unimaginable horror from the outset.

Whilst much has been made of the horrific abuse and torture inflicted on these innocent animals who have been born purely to turn a profit for an already rich industry, the journey itself is inherently cruel. Australian animals in the tens of thousands die yearly on such journeys from starvation, lack of veterinary care and suffering. To subject an animal to that journey is unconscionable when alternatives exist.

Further, the horror that awaits them upon disembarkment of the ships is beyond reprehensible. Torture. Barbarity. Unimaginable abuse. That we have knowingly sent millions of our animals to such a fate is unconscionable. The meat industry and the Government have for 20 years operated on the basis that the almighty dollar is all that matters. They have hidden this shameful industry behind closed doors and our elected representatives in each successive government have lied to the Australian public. No longer. Now we know. Such inaction has done irreparable damage. We have lost faith in the system and trust in the people who hold the power.

This industry is inherently cruel. There are no checks and balances that will improve the way it works, and no protections exist that will guarantee our animals are treated humanely. We are not stupid. A system that has been running for 20 years has had ample time to fix itself. That it has not, that the people in power use the excuse that it takes time and there have been substantial improvements (this is horrifying to say the least- you mean to say treatment was once worse than what we witnessed on Four Corners?) means that the Government's resumption of trade a mere three weeks after it was suspended is offensive. An industry that has taken 20 years to get to a standard that is still fundamentally cruel does not suddenly get fixed in three weeks.

Further, that 'our' Government is not demanding our animals be stunned before slaughter is horrifying. Where is the humanity? These animals deserve at the very least to be respected and treated with decency. We owe it to our animals to keep them on our shores where their fate, while no less tragic is infinitely more humane.

Once our animals leave our shores there is no way of monitoring what goes on, nor is there any way of teaching a collective people how to treat animals humanely. It is not something that can be learned, nor taught. Different cultures value different life forms. The foreign countries Australia exports its animals to have been shown to treat our animals reprehensibly time and time again. The abuse is well documented. Anyone that has seen the footage knows that humanity can not be taught to the people caught on film torturing living beings to death.

We are supposed to be a progressive country. Instead we have proven ourselves regressive. It is a national shame and our only redemption will be to stop this trade now. Stop kowtowing to the meat industry and politics and start listening to the horrified people of Australia who have been left feeling helpless, apathetic and distraught over our government's inaction in the face of barbarism. Come voting time, our feelings will be heard.

'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by how well it treats its animals.'

BAN Live Export.