

\SUBMISSION

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this submission as part of the independent review into Australia's live export trade.

I, personally, find it unacceptable for Australia to continue the live animal export trade in the knowledge that we can never ensure the wellbeing of our animals from the moment they leave our shores.

Over the last 30 years, Australia has sent more than 150 million sheep and 13 million cattle to be slaughtered in the Middle East and Asia. More than 2.5 million animals have died on ships en route - deaths deemed an 'acceptable' loss by an industry that puts profit above all else.

Numerous investigations by animals welfare organisations have exposed routine brutality inflicted upon Australian animals in destination countries that would be illegal in our own country.

Most importing countries have NOT ONE SINGLE ANIMAL WELFARE LAW. Sheep who survive the journey to the Middle East are often purchased, bound and shoved into car boots in a region where temperatures reach 50C in summer.

Both sheep and cattle have their throats cut whilst fully conscious, SUFFERING PROLONGED, DISTRESSING AND PAINFUL DEATHS.

The live export industry's willingness to supply millions of animals to these regions sends the appalling message that Australians approve of these cruelties.

The Australian live export industry claims that live animals are required for 'religious reasons' or due to a 'lack of refrigeration' in importing countries are outdated and invalid.

When Australia's live trade was exposed as supplying cattle to Egypt in the full knowledge that it was routine practice for cattle to have their leg tendons slashed to disable them prior to slaughter — the Federal Government should have ended the trade then and there. This further evidence of Australian interests knowingly supplying animals to even worse abuse in Indonesia demands that the Federal Government acts now.

The evidence gathered against Australia's live trade during the recent Indonesian investigation and in the Middle East in the eight years prior is damning. No amount of profit, no amount of excuses can justify

Australia's continued involvement in live animal export — the associated cruelty inflicted on animals — and the message that we are sending to other nations as to what is acceptable treatment of animals.

Indonesia has been the main destination for Australian cattle with 4.6 million exported to this country over the past decade. Animal protection groups had hoped that the treatment of cattle in Indonesia would be better than that of sheep in the Middle East because of the greater level of Australian industry involvement. What we have discovered however, is that we couldn't have been more wrong. Evidence gathered in Indonesia reveals that the involvement of Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and LiveCorp in Indonesia has actually contributed to and facilitated brutal treatment of Australian cattle.

A decision by the Australian Government to end live export will save millions of cattle, sheep and goats from suffering, and importantly, will send a clear message to the rest of the world that ANIMAL WELFARE DOES MATTER!