

Dear Committee,

I am writing regarding Live Animal Export and animal slaughter in general. I was disturbed a number of years ago about the treatment of animals exported to the middle east, but the recent Four Corners broadcast which highlighted the torture that cattle go through in Indonesia really broke my heart.

I cannot understand how animals can be treated in such a terrible way. To be killed in such a way must be agony, but the cattle waiting in line see it happening and they are terrified as they know its going to be their fate as well. I cried, alot, over the show and it has really changed my attitude towards eating meat. I can no longer eat meat without thinking of what the animals go through and therefore I am now not eating meat.

I am appalled that Livecorp and Meat Livestock Australia appear to have had knowledge of what was occurring and yet took no action.

I believe that since these organisations have self interests to protect and clearly do not have animal welfare as a priority, that an independent organisation should be set up to oversee the treatment of all animals that are being transported and slaughtered. I understand that an independent body is used in the UK to advise the government of animal welfare issues.

I would ideally like to see all live export banned immediately and forever. Or as an interim measure why cant the animals be slaughtered in local abattoirs? Surely this would resulting in less transport which would be less stressful for the animals and I believe or hope that Australia has humane slaughtering methods? This should also result in less carbon being emitted (less transport) and result in employment for more Australians.

I support the passage of the Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No.2] and the Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2] which seek an end date for all live animal exports within 3 years. If live export is to continue then a guarantee that slaughter without stunning will never occur and animals should not be left shaking in fear watching other cattle be killed as was seen on Four Corners – I will never forget those images. I also support a non government, animal welfare based organisation to oversee animal welfare and independent advice to government. Somebody needs to care about the animals and their welfare.

Forwarded for your consideration.

Wendy Clarke