



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe,

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the peak national body representing farmers and, more broadly, agriculture across Tasmania. It is one of the state's foremost and respected lobbying and advocacy organisations. The keys to our success have been our commitment to presenting innovative and forward-looking solutions to the issues affecting agriculture, striving to meet current and emerging challenges, and advancing Tasmania's vital agricultural production base.

In 2008/9, the farm gate value of agriculture and fishing was \$1.683 billion – which represented 8.2% of the gross state product. More than 17,000 people were directly employed in farm related activities – which represented around one in every 12 jobs. Taking into account basic multiplier factors, this meant the farm-dependent economy contributes \$5.46 billion (18%) to gross state product and employs one in every 10 Tasmanians.

As well, farmers are actively involved in Tasmania's forestry industry. Private foresters - most of whom are farmers - own 26 per cent of the Tasmania's native forests. There are 1,600 family farms that integrate forestry into their enterprises and they collectively support 5400 full-time equivalent jobs. Production from these private forests contributes \$450 million - \$650 million annually to Tasmania's gross state product.

The vast bulk of our agricultural product is sold interstate and overseas. Farm exports in 2009/10 were valued at more than half a billion dollars (\$527.6m). In addition, a further \$1.458 billion of product was sent to the mainland. This in total represented 28.8% of the state's exports.

Not only that, the sector is one of very few in the state that have continued to deliver improved performance in the long term. Over the past 25 years, the average annual rate of increase in farm gate GVP has been 4%. Over the five year period from 2003/2004 to 2009/2010, the actual increase was a massive 25% - from \$1.35 billion to \$1.68 billion.

These figures clearly confirm the importance of the sector as an economic driver for the state's economy – and also demonstrate that agriculture is a more significant contributor to the Tasmanian economy than it is in any other state. With this in mind, it is clear that Tasmania needs to ensure that the agricultural base of the state remains competitive and profitable.

Tasmanian farmers compete in very tough commercial markets where there is little opportunity to pass on increased costs. This means that farmers have to use every possible opportunity to improve productivity and reduce costs if they are to remain in business. Any increase in regulatory costs will further impinge on already slim margins; and place Tasmanian farmers at an even greater competitive disadvantage.

TFGA is a member of Cattle Council of Australia and we support the matters raised in their submission.

Although the majority of cattle exported to Indonesia are sourced from Northern and Western Australia, Tasmanian producers are still impacted by any changes in the live export industry.

In particular, we are concerned about the impact recent decisions regarding live export of cattle for slaughter will have on our established markets for dairy heifers exported for breeding purposes. In the past, Tasmania has also had an export trade in live sheep. While this sector is currently not active, given the right market conditions, it may well once again become a viable activity for Tasmanian sheep producers.

As an island state, Tasmanian producers value our isolation and the disease free status this brings us in many sectors. One of our major concerns with any changes to the Australian live beef trade into Indonesia is the increased biosecurity risks that would result if Indonesia were to begin sourcing livestock from other countries that are known to have diseases such as foot and mouth disease or that do not have regulatory and on-farm systems that compare to our level of biosecurity.

We urge the federal government to ensure our concerns, and the interests of Tasmanian farmers, are addressed in any decisions that could potentially result in further disruption of Australia's important live exports sector.

We would of course be prepared to comment further should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Jan Davis
Chief Executive Officer
21 July 2011

Tanya Barker
10 Nurrain Street
Mount Gravatt East QLD 4122

4 July 2011

Independent Livestock Export Review
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. Live Export

I am writing to submit my concerns regarding live export and I respectfully ask that you consider the following information in your deliberations.

My particular concerns are summarised below:

- Countries including Indonesia and the Middle East do not have the same animal welfare concerns as Australia does, therefore their facilities and methods are clearly unable to attend to these animals in the way that Australia would demand.
- The Australian industry has proven that it cannot manage these concerns and has caused a public outcry to demand this be addressed.

I do not support resurrection of the live export trade in any form and therefore will not comment on the points relating to transport, animal age/weight or identification as these methods should have been introduced when live export was initiated many years ago. The fact that these methods are not already in place supports that the public do not trust the government or industry to implement or manage this now.

I request that you use the inquiry to ban all live export or risk a boycott of meat in Australia.

I look forward to the findings from this inquiry resulting in a full ban of all live trade.

Yours faithfully,

Tanya Barker

Nicole Fahey
2/44 Gordon Crescent
Stanmore 2048
NSW
Australia
P: (02) 9568 3431

E: nicole_fahey@hotmail.com

01.07.2011



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you to express the necessity for a complete ban of the Live Animal Export Trade.

Any continuation of the trade under the guise of animal welfare is just a ploy motivated by profit and international diplomatic relationships, not a decision based even remotely on ethics. To pretend otherwise further darkens the already tainted reputation of the government, the MLA, and Livecorp on this matter.

To be patently clear, monitoring the animals once they leave Australia complicates the situation to the point of futility. This is not a solution and cannot be viewed as a solution. There are countless variables and loopholes to be exploited (as there has been in the past and as there will unequivocally be in the present/future).

It is sad for the public to recognise that the government and large corporations continually undermine us with expensive manipulation tactics through elaborate yet transparent PR campaigns. However, the real tragedy is, that whilst money, time and energy is spent to perpetuate a trade that is globally