

Senate
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT

Dear Senators,

I live in Toowoomba and have a book called "Stone on Stone" written by my late uncle Professor Emeritus Neil Yeates of University of New England University. He was in charge of animal husbandry. It must run in the blood because I have been learning about cattle on the Just Grounds web site. My grandfather became a stock and station agent here. Before that he was the youngest of a large family who lived in the Adavale area.

These people, family members would not be proud of me if I was to let pass this opportunity of addressing the Senate of Australia on the important issue of the resumption of the live cattle trade to Indonesia.

The live cattle trade has enabled many aboriginal young men to gain useful employment with the Northern Territory bos indicus cattle stations. As this trade has been in limbo these men don't have that employment of which they were so proud. They don't want to sit under the tree with a bottle of wine. They are determined to work and they have gained a lot of self worth in this way.

I recently listened to a clip of Marlee Ranacher (daughter of the late Sara Henderson) of Bullo Downs who will have to start shooting their cattle as they haven't the feed for them and it would flood the southern markets to send them south. It was a heartbreaking interview as she was asked by the reporter what she would do (they are selling Bullo Downs). There was a pause and then her voice breaking she said. "I don't know..this is my home."

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate please think deeply about this. You have been provided with a huge opportunity to restore confidence in the government. You are part of a House of Review. That is the original objective of the Founding Fathers. Decisions are made in the House of Representatives in all the cut and thrust of political turmoil. Headlines scream that animals are being tortured in the Indonesian slaughter houses seen on Four Corners television program. There is such uproar that the decision is made to ban all live exports of cattle to Indonesia.

You have been asked to investigate the efficacy of resumption of live exports to Indonesia. Please know that there are many cattle owners and truck drivers, shipping companies and ancillary businesses who are suffering financially as a result of this cessation.
<http://www.beefcentral.com/news/article/372>

Please consider starting the trade. There have already been top-level diplomatic discussions between our Kevin Rudd MP and the appropriate Indonesian Ministers. Everyone in both Australian and Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministries are working to ensure more humane slaughtering techniques, I understand. You are best placed to know what safeguards are to be set in train. The Indonesian people desperately need our beef. A sliver of beef added to their staple diet of rice provides enough nutrition to enable them to live a healthy life. We provide aid of a financial nature to Indonesia and we would surely want to do what we could to enable them to live in health by providing this especially suitable bos indicus beef, freshly killed. They don't have the refrigeration necessary to safely store beef.

Sincerely,

Ian Yeates
Toowoomba