

10th July, 2011

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

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Four generations of Australians live here at Warroora Station, a sheep/cattle pastoral property in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia. We range in age from my 93 year old Mother, Bernice McLeod B.E.M., thru my handicapped cousin; my son and his family with 3 little children, and the hundreds of visitors who flock to this World Heritage Listed Ningaloo coastline.

We are abhorred at the recent chain of events resulting in the desecration of the live meat export industry which takes in over one third of the land area of our nation.

We have neglected our duty to those less fortunate than ourselves in our neighbouring country, people who have to gather a handful of grass to sell to the feedlots in Indonesia for the return of a few cents, and thus a livelihood; people who have to crush the jawbones to gain some calcium to sprinkle on their rice; people who rely on our live cattle imports to put protein into their diets.

The way our Federal government has handled this matter has been totally devoid of diplomacy and has therefore insulted our near, and distant Asian neighbours profoundly.

As the daughter of a Digger who spent 8 long years in the Middle East proudly fighting for all the Aussie flag represents, I am appalled.

The reliable information we receive from trusted sources who know ALL the abattoirs in Indonesia is far removed from the staged footage shot by 4 Corners. Our cattle were not going to abattoirs that did not use stunning mechanisms; nor to any who engaged in the cruelty shot by this one-sided TV show.

Western Australia is the largest livestock export state in Australia, with over 350,000 cattle and 2.5 million sheep exported annually, yet Minister Ludwig did not even have the common decency to come west and meet with our industry bodies.

This short sightedness is crippling the WA livestock industry and has the potential to destroy the livelihoods of WA pastoralists and Northern cattle producers, including over 700 Aboriginal stockmen who are dependent upon livestock exports to countries like Indonesia, not to mention the whole transport industry; helicopter & fixed wing pilots, and dozens of other hard working Australians - the ripples go on forever. - all based on dubious evidence of isolated animal abuse - which it has been suggested *was staged and paid for* by those intent on destroying this industry.

Let's bring some common sense back into this debate; some facts about the reality of the situation; but most important of all, let's be big enough to apologise to the Indonesians and do everything in our power to help our neighbours bring all of their infrastructure up to required standards. Until this happens with the greatest of urgency let us continue to send our stock to the approved abattoirs which already exist in Indonesia.

Who is going to feed the rapidly increasing global population if it is not the people on the land in the north of Australia ? If bungling governments send these hardy folk broke, it won't take long before these lands are taken up by neighbours to our north.

Yours faithfully,

LEONIE McLEOD for all at  
Warroora Station