

Submission to Senate Inquiry into Live Animal Exports

We are beef seed stock and commercial producers in Tasmania and we are very concerned about and affected by the potential closure of the live export trade with Indonesia.

We have seen an immediate drop in cattle prices and this affects us and it affects our bull clients who produce high grade beef for local and export markets.

The movement of Northern Australian cattle to the Southern markets would have a devastating consequence for the whole Australian cattle industry, apart from the fact that most of the beef produced in Northern Australia is totally unsuitable for the Southern markets.

It is also not as easy as a lot of ill informed people are saying to just open a few abattoirs up North, operating for 6 months of the year is just not viable and labour supply has been a problem in the past, which would be more difficult now with the booming resource industries offering huge wages.

We believe there is no need for the trade to be stopped, and the Four Corners programme was not a balanced account of what is happening at most abattoirs in Indonesia.

No one can condone ill treatment of animals but we believe that the MLA is making progress in addressing this problem.

Despite the mineral boom, we still need other forms of Primary Production to produce the all important export dollar for our economy.

Mrs Jennifer Hughes