

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

My family and I are meat eaters. But we care about how animals are grown and killed. Subsequently, we are strongly opposed to Australia's live export trade for the following reasons:

- 1) The wellbeing of our animals, from the moment they leave our shores until their eventual slaughter, cannot be assured.
- 2) Many of the countries we export to, have deplorable track records when it comes to animal welfare.
- 3) There is an avalanche of solid evidence of endemic and extreme animal cruelty once animals leave our shores.
- 4) Due to the enormous turnover of people in the destination slaughter teams and their relatively low social status, it is not a good strategy to invest in training personnel in animal handling practices at this level.
- 5) In late 2010, MLA and Livecorp told RSPCA Australia that expanding the use of stunning in Indonesia would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.
- 6) In Australia, Animal Welfare sits under the same minister as Agriculture - whose primary stakeholder is the MLA. And the MLA is allowed to 'self regulate' animal welfare... the conflicts of interest with this arrangement are blatant.
- 7) The MLA has proven, repeatedly that they are incompetent when it comes to assuring animal welfare. They should not be entrusted with this solemn responsibility.

We ask that you do all you can to phase out all live animal exports. And instead to focus on independently monitored Australian based abattoirs for processed meat export. Aside from the animal welfare benefits, it will create Aussie jobs and reinvigorate the ailing Australian meat processing industry.

Until animal welfare is placed in the hands of an independent commission, funded by the Government for the people of this country, we will continue to see extreme cases of animal cruelty, extreme actions by animal advocacy groups and extreme/politically volatile reactions by Government.

Yours sincerely,
Lyn Copas

14/7/11