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RIVEREN STATION

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2011

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

Dear Sir / Madam

In reference to clause 2a of your enquiry regarding the implications of the Live Export Trade on regional Australia and those who rely on this trade for their livelihood, I request your consideration of my story.

In 1968 I left the comfort and familiarity of the bright city lights to marry the strapping young stockman from way up north who broke his back to meet me. Thereafter this city convert gradually earned the privilege of belonging to a multigenerational, modern pioneering family whose gospel is love of the land, livestock and each other.

Our family and our industry have devoted a lifetime of responsible land management and animal welfare practices, always involving great financial investment. Throughout the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign, we fought for and won disease free status. We have bred Brahmans suitable for the Live Export Trade to our northern neighbours and in time followed our animals to Indonesian villages where multigenerational families proudly care for our / their cattle. At all times good, better and best practices have been at the forefront of who we are and what we do in the North Australian cattle industry.

Our responsibility to provide protein to South East Asia has now been highjacked by a government who proclaim "to do the right thing". The 4 corners footage was indefensible and yet the public who dictated to the Minister to play games with our Live Export Trade have no knowledge or concern for bio-security and food production.

We are totally dependent on the Live Export Trade. Our industry and reputation have been unfairly tarnished and as every effort is being adopted to rectify the dreadful damage, I hold grave fears for the future of Australian agriculture. My heart and mind and soul churn for the future of millions of cattle and thousands of people including my eight darling grandchildren.

Terry Underwood OAM  
Owner / Manager  
Author *In The Middle Of Nowhere*