

I would like to make a submission into the live export enquiry.

As an Australian citizen, I am very strongly opposed to the live export trade and hold deep concern for the mis treatment of animals both on live export ships and when arriving for slaughter.

As most other Australians, I was shocked and horrified to view recent footage shot by Lyn White from Animals Australia. This footage clearly shows that animals are tortured in Indonesian abattoirs and are abandoned by the restrictions and regulations of the Australian industry to suffer at the hands of Indonesian practices.

I am outlining my main concerns below in summary.

- The Australian government assures us that this industry will be more closely regulated. Given that the MLA were responsible for ensuring the ethical treatment of Australian animals overseas for the last ten years, and have failed in every sense, how can the government assure that regulation will be tightened, when it never occurred in the first place
- The mistreatment of animals begins when they board the live export ships. Evidence has shown that these animals die of disease and injury even before they reach their destination.
- The Australian government assures that only 'ethical' abattoirs that comply with industry standards will be sold Australian cattle, but these abattoirs are neither documented or inspected by Australian officials. Nor do they all use stunning prior to slaughter. These abattoirs cannot be deemed ethical or on par with industry standard by any means.
- Australian farmers are opposing the ban based on the fact that they will be negatively impacted financially. This argument lacks in morality on so many levels. They care not about the welfare of the animals once they leave their properties, but only on the dollars they will lose if the live export is closed. These farmers should not be rewarded financially by contributing to an industry which they now know tortures and maims their animals.

The Australian government has the obligation and the moral responsibility to ban activities which openly torture animals. If this means that the farming industry will be affected, then so be it. I am shocked that the ALP see it fit to continue to contribute to such brutality.

I would like all forms of live export banned for the sake of the poor creatures that we are forcing to end their lives in such terror and torture.

Louise Bonomi