



KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL

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Folder: Community Relations/Liaison/Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

21 July 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION - SENATE ENQUIRY - ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS IN AUSTRALIAN LIVE EXPORT MARKETS

Like most Australians I was horrified to see the recent images of extreme animal cruelty at some abattoirs in Indonesia. This situation could not be allowed to continue, hence the ban that was temporarily imposed on live exports.

As the Committee of Enquiry would be well aware, live cattle exports to Indonesia are the mainstay of the cattle industry in the Northern Territory. Reintroducing the bans and stopping live exports permanently would devastate the industry sending many pastoral and support businesses to the wall. Thousands would be thrown out of work with long term family businesses destroyed over night. Regional towns such as Katherine would suffer enormous losses.

I call upon the Australian Government as a matter of extreme urgency to work co-operatively with Indonesian authorities to put in place measures that protect these animals. It is completely unacceptable that government departments have known of the mistreatment of animals for so long yet have failed to act. Thanks to their inaction we now have a major crisis that threatens the viability of the Northern Territory cattle industry.

There are literally thousands of cattle waiting to go to market now that the export ban has been lifted. Enormous damage to the industry has already occurred and any further disruption of exports is completely unacceptable. A credible solution must be found that stops the cruelty and at the same time guarantees the continuation of this very important export industry.

Katherine Town Council has a close relationship with the Republic of Indonesia Consul in Darwin. At the start of this crisis I wrote to Minister offering my assistance in the negotiation of a solution and am currently awaiting a response.

Yours sincerely

Anne Shepherd
MAYOR OF KATHERINE