

SUBMISSION TO SENATE ENQUIRY FROM AN ORDINARY AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN

A quote I recently heard : “We have to look at everything and learn something from what we see, even the things we can’t bear to look at.”

One of the biggest insults to the intelligence of ordinary Australians is to be told that the live export trade has to continue so that we can influence animal welfare in these countries. If what we witnessed on Four Corners is an indication of “improvement” then I can’t bear to think about what has happened before.

The other argument being peddled is that if they don’t buy our animals they will source them elsewhere and sadly some other country’s animals will be mistreated. We can’t prevent what’s happening in other countries but we can look after our own and hopefully influence other nations by our actions, and if we are the decent society that I always believed we were, then the only solution is to **BAN LIVE EXPORTS** full stop.

The practice of Halal slaughter without stunning is inhumane and cruel in the best of facilities. Why do our animals have to be the “guinea pigs” in training these slaughterhouses when clearly we have no influence once the animals get to these countries.

We can’t trust or believe the governing bodies that are supposed to be looking after our animals - that has been proven by their turning the other way for decades while being aware of the terrible mistreatment of animals. Thank God for Lyn White and the others who subjected themselves to witness unspeakable cruelty and hear agonizing sounds so that we the public of Australia became aware of the truth about our live export industry. Those images haunt me continually and to be honest I can longer look at a piece of beef without seeing those images.

Please stand up for what is moral and ethical and **BAN LIVE EXPORTS ONCE AND FOR ALL.** I am imploring you to support the alternative in re-opening Australian abattoirs that have to comply with Australian standards, give jobs back to people who lost them because of this live export trade and give our animals some dignity and as much as possible a painfree exit from this world. If New Zealand can do it why can’t we?

May I also say that I am pleased that Meat and Livestock Australia’s role in this issue is going to be examined because I believe they have a lot to answer for.

Sincerely
Lian Staben