

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
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To whomever it may concern

It is unacceptable for Australia to continue the live animal export trade in the knowledge that we can never ensure the wellbeing of our animals from the moment they leave our shores.

26 years ago a Senate Select committee on Animal Welfare concluded that if a decision was to be made on the future of the live trade purely on animal welfare grounds, there was enough evidence to stop it. Had previous governments acted, millions of animals would have been saved from suffering.

Despite industry claims of improvements in live export, terrible treatment of Australian livestock continues in all importing countries.

The industry has clearly been shown to be incapable of raising animal welfare standards in their export markets to an acceptable level and that Australia can no longer put its faith in them to do so.

The Government must put animal welfare and the public interest ahead of everything else. It must move urgently to put in place the safeguards needed to protect the tens of thousands of beasts already in feedlots in Indonesia, and shut down a trade that is fundamentally broken, systemically cruel and not in Australia's economic interest.

Yours sincerely
Robyn Chalklen