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20 July 2011

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

Dear Sir

On behalf of the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF), I am forwarding a brief submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport Inquiry into Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets.

While South Australian cattle producers have not been directly affected by the recent ban on exporting live cattle to Indonesia, South Australia does ship significant numbers of sheep and goats, plus some cattle to other countries.

In future, if there are to be any changes that could alter the current situation and impact on the economic returns to South Australian producers it will be important that there is timely consultation so that all are made aware of implications well before these happen. To suddenly stop the trade as has just happened has implications for a much wider number of sectors and people than just those directly involved. For example with the recent ban, a number of service providers based in South Australia such as stock feed producers and hay growers have been affected.

To ensure that any changes are to be minimal, the recent Indonesian example shows the need for vigilance in policing the arrangements that are already in place. And where the practices are found to be less than satisfactory, in future there need to be procedures so that the trade and the abattoirs that are up to standard are not penalised by also being seen as guilty by association. It should not have been necessary to have suspended all of the live cattle trade to Indonesia. As part of the process there needs to be a designated body to ensure that the protocols are in place.

The SAFF would like to endorse the position taken by the Cattle Council of Australia in relation to the live export of cattle to Indonesia, and to thank the Council for their efforts in working to ensure that the suspension was lifted. This should not have been necessary in the first place.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Carol Vincent', written over a faint blue line.

Carol Vincent
CHIEF EXECUTIVE