

I firmly believe that the phasing out of live exports is the only way forward for Australia, and I find it 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.

As you know, the systematic cruelty of the live export industry has been a longstanding issue that has been brought to the attention of the Australian Government and Australian public on numerous occasions over the last ten years. Over this time, the industry has clearly been shown to be incapable of raising animal welfare standards in their export markets to an acceptable level. Without the push to phase out live export, this problem will continue to arise and bring shame on Australia.

My argument is not against a trade between Australia and Indonesia within the meat export industry, I care only that the animals are treated with the decency that they deserve. Given a poor history of the industry acknowledging and managing this problem, and the failed 'feel-good' promises that more care will be taken to oversee such facilities, the phasing out of live export is the only way forward. I hope that you agree that a 3-5 year plan to restructure this trade and eventually phase out live export would be the first achievable and positive steps taken to resolve this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nikoleta Minns