

I have never felt the need to write to any politician, however the issue of Live Animal Export has encouraged me to voice a very strong opinion.

Please support the ban of Live Animal Export, I cannot for the life of me think what encouraged the latest action - to resume trade, when there is absolutely nothing positive to come out of it. Even the cattle farmers and I quote "I can't control what happens to my animal when I sell it to Indonesia" Kelly White, NT interviewed on ABC News Radio, has admitted that it is beyond our control to follow the process of live animals being sent to Indonesia for butchering.

Having spent many of my years on a farm in Canowindra in the west of NSW and now living in a cattle area on the south coast of NSW, I don't know one person who supports the Live Animal Trade, farmer or not.

Having witnessed the sheer terror and shock on the beautiful black steer waiting his turn to get his throat cut, a minimum of 10 times at this particular abattoir, must strike a chord with any person with a modicum of humanity.

Indonesia has put us on notice that they wish to be beef self sufficient by 2014 - so why are we persisting with this trade when we could take the initiative to kill our own meat and export. Why aren't commencing operations at now-closed abattoirs and increasing employment in regional Australia. Recently Indonesia has agreed to allow up to 90,000 tonnes of boxed beef to be imported, so there are doors open for this trade and surely this is better for our economy and our animals.

Please think beyond the square. There are far better ways to support our meat industry than sending our animals off to horrendous slaughter. In the words of Gandi, "I hold that the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man"

Tracey Stewart