



Conservation Council SA

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural
Affairs and Transport

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Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

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Submitted by email

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Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets.

As the peak conservation body for South Australia, the Conservation Council of South Australia (Conservation Council SA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on live meat exports.

Conservation SA is an independent, non-profit and strictly non-party political organization representing over 50 of South Australia's environment and conservation organizations and their 60,000 supporters. Conservation SA has developed a comprehensive view of environment policy in "South Australia in a Changing Climate: A Blueprint for a Sustainable Future"
(<http://www.conservationsa.org.au/blueprint.html>)

The Conservation Council of South Australia is concerned about the welfare and cruelty issues associated with live meat exports. We are concerned that the lifting of the ban of live trade to Indonesia will lead to a resumption of inhumane treatment of Australian animals, and of greatest concern is the way in which animals are treated immediately prior to and during the slaughter process.

We are calling on the Federal Government to do the following:

- Immediately establish a mechanism to ensure that all Australian livestock are stunned before or at the point of slaughter both within Australia and in our export markets.
- To independently monitor that stunning standards in addition to World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards are maintained in the industry.
- To develop transparent and accessible data and progress reports that can assure all Australians that Australian livestock are not subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment

- To develop a plan within one year to phase out live animal exports within 3 years, switching to domestic slaughtering appropriate for various customs, coupled with processes and facilities to provide chilled or frozen meats to our export markets.
- We recommend the establishment of an *Australian Animal Welfare Council* to provide accurate independent advice on animal welfare matters associated with a range of human interactions in primary industries where there is a potential for cruelty, entrapment, displacement, bycatch and poisoning.

Yours sincerely

Tim Kelly

Chief Executive