



Coodardie Brahman

Coodardie Pty Ltd ABN 93 099 203 308

The O'Brien Family

www.coodardie.com.au

Coodardie Station

Stuart Hway, Mataranka NT 0852

Numul Numul Station

Roper Hway, Mataranka NT 0852

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: rat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

Re: Senate Inquiry into the Live Export Trade

This vision shown by the ABC's 4Corners, Bloody Business, is disturbing. My whole life is cattle – they give me joy, a sense of being as well as my livelihood. We take every care to produce cattle that are genetically quiet and handle them using low stress techniques so they are humanely and lovingly treated at every stage.

I was unaware of this treatment in their final destination. I had no idea it was like this. I CANNOT and DONOT believe that this is the normal or common practice. Regardless, we need to fix it so that it does not continue to occur.

STOPPING LIVE EXPORT however WILL NOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. We need to be part of the process in order to be part of the solution.

If the tv footage of rogue operators slaughtering our cattle in Indonesia wasn't distressing and bad enough, our government's reaction has been totally devastating. We can but only feel betrayed by them for lack of a fair go and due process. We need to be in there to fix the problem and to make sure it doesn't continue, not run away from it and turn our back. By the government halting the live export trade it has put the lives and welfare of 1000's at stake – both cattle and people, here and in Indonesia. We need it to resume to abattoirs that do the right thing, within days, not weeks or months.

My name is Moira Lanzarin and I am a 3rd generation northern beef cattle producer. My husband and I have 2 young sons. Our family operates two properties. These give my parents, my elderly uncle, my brother and ourselves a lifestyle where we constantly aim to be environmentally sustainable and breed ever better cattle which are good for the country and people's health. We already run a very tight ship with little spare cash. We work for our "board and keep" in lieu of wages with the prospect of better times ahead. Land management and the welfare of our cattle is always first priority when it comes to financial allocation (that and our commitments to the bank!). Another brother, a Director and Shareholder of our family company also lives on the station but works fulltime in a nearby mine. He spends his "time off" after work and on weekends working with us in the paddock and the machinery shed helping to keep things going.

My family's core business is breeding bulls for north Australia. In essence this means, breeding bulls for people to breed steers and heifers for the live export trade. Since the ban was announced we have already had 2 stations cancel orders for bulls and another cancel their order for registered stud heifers. I am also an accredited preg tester for the live export trade. Contract jobs for this work have also been



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cancelled as people have had their live export orders cancelled with no certainty as to when they will resume. We sell weaner steers to others to grow out for the live export trade. The order for these is now postponed indefinitely. If the ban continues for any length of time our ability to buy direct operational supplies (supplementary feed and vaccinations for the cattle, fuel for generators to pump stock and personal water (there is no natural permanent water) etc) – our ability to survive and continue is put in serious jeopardy. It will mean a complete restructure of our operation and the reliance on outside sources of income and savings in order to continue. And continue we must and we will.

Our family business leases Numul Numul Station from the local aboriginal corporation. If the live export market is not resumed in the very near future it also puts their future in jeopardy. The Numul Numul Aboriginal Corporation is again a family unit, doing the utmost to stay connected and in touch with their land and keep healthy and strong. Without their annual lease payments from the station it is possible that these good people, (4 generations - 3 elders, 6 daughters, 5 son-in-laws, lots of grandchildren, great grandchildren plus nephew and nieces) will need to move into the larger communities or towns. Putting additional pressure on those services and being at the mercy of ready access to alcohol and other potential abuses.

We love our cattle and our country. We do our best to look after them. Our ability to do this is jeopardised if we do not have a viable market. Live Export offers that and Indonesia is our most important and biggest customer. The natural savannas of the north do not have the ability to finish cattle directly for slaughter. For abattoirs to be successful they need to have a large supply of heavy finished cattle close at hand. It is for these reasons plus the lack of willing abattoir workers why there are no longer any abattoirs in the north. The live export trade takes light weight young cattle from northern Australia, via short haul ships, and finishes them in Indonesian feedlots where they have ready access to quality high protein feeds suitable for finishing and quick growth. These are often by-products of other industries and a perfect symbiotic mix: far more environmentally friendly than the large scale cultivation to support Aus feedlots.

Boxed Beef - i.e. humanely killing Australian cattle and then selling it to Indonesia is not the answer. Those who buy this meat are the poor to middle class. They don't have refrigeration. They can't afford to pay or buy much meat.

Live Export is desirable to Indonesians because they can value add. Their people earn a living at most stages of the chain. They fatten the animals in their feedlots. They slaughter them. It creates employment and community and raises their standard of living and personal social welfare.

The Indonesians will not risk losing this. THIS MARKET WILL NOT BUY AUSTRALIAN CHILLED BOX BEEF. And why should they? How arrogant of us to decimate their industry and production chain, their ability to value add and contribute to their own economy and welfare, and then ASSUME they will still buy the end product from us! They will just source live cattle from elsewhere. The inhumane practices will continue. Without Australians influencing for the better, they will revert to previous ways and animals may be treated even worse.

If people truly care about livestock safety and welfare it should not matter about the nationality of the stock.

We need to use our expertise and influence to improve the standards for the sake of all livestock. If we are not part of the process we can not put our weight behind improving it. WE NEED TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

We need to make stunning (or other more acceptable alternatives) standard practice. What was shown on 4Corners IS NOT accepted Halal slaughter process. Humane slaughtering can be achieved. SIMPLY STOPPING the trade of Australian live cattle will not rectify or stop the rogue operators and their despicable behaviour.

We do not ask for welfare. We ask for a fair go. We ask for the opportunity to access our chosen markets. We ask to be able to continue to be good custodians of the land now and for the future. We ask for your common sense and expediency.

Yours truly



Mrs Moira Lanzarin



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