

To Whom It May Concern

Comments for the senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport

Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets

15th July 2011.

It is imperative that the live export trade be reinstated and continue to expand for the welfare of Australian animals, the economy of all of Australia, the employment of Australian and Indonesians.

My understanding is that animals are well treated. Cattle are exported in acceptable weight ranges and are well looked after on the journey to Indonesia. ABC 4 Corners footage showed well fed and looked after animals in Indonesia and on the boats to Indonesia.

MLA recognised that restraining devices were required to assist local Indonesian slaughter persons – over 100 boxes have been installed (source MLA website). Australia has the expertise and ability to train personal in animal welfare and to build suitable restraining boxes - see photos – Warwick Cattle Crush Company. I strongly recommend the upgrading of the restraining devices to stunning boxes and ongoing training of Indonesian personal by Australian trained personal in the handling and welfare of animals.

Loss of the Indonesian market will have and is having a detrimental effect on the Australia animals in Australia, and all producers and all associated businesses in Australia will suffer financially because of the loss of this important market.

Seasonal conditions dictate the small window of opportunity to supply the Indonesian market.

The hot climate in both North Australia and Indonesia indicate the best breed of cattle for this market is Braham (Bos indicus) content animals. The animals are exported in a weight range of 300-350kg so are not suited to processing in Australia due to their light weight and store condition. As Indonesia is one the most cost efficient producers of animal feed in the world it is sensible to export these cattle. With co-operation there is a benefit to Australia and Indonesia both financially and for feeding the Indonesian people. There are considerable businesses, families, and animals and environment issues that will be detrimentally affected in Australia should the live export to Indonesia not remain viable and sustainably managed. We have to be mindful of jobs in Indonesia created by exporting feeder animals, thus employing their people and feeding their people. The Indigenous persons of Australia also operate and manage businesses in Northern Australia and this will affect these persons,(some 343 indigenous employees) should the Northern Australia live export business not continue.

We have NLIS system which will manage traceability of Australian animals and allow transparency and traceability in the receiving country with some education in that country.

There are no export processors in Northern Australia. There is a very short seasonal window of opportunity to process Northern cattle.

The matter of live export trade must be started up again as a matter of urgency to resolve the issue of financial, economic, and distressing uncertainty in the North Community of Australia(as well as other producers in rest of Australia) as well as the food situation and employment situation in Indonesia.

The Indonesian culture must be recognised and respected.

Speedy resumption of trade will hopefully lessen the potential for diplomatic repercussions and retaliatory trade actions the may impact on other areas in Australia.

I again emphasise the importance of the Australian Live Export for the satisfactory outcome for animals, people, environment, and economy.

Signed - Avriel Tyson,





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CRUSH

WARNING