

Submission to Senate Committee Enquiry into Australia's live export markets

The ultimate goal should be to phase out live export for slaughter. A phasing out plan is a reasonable approach to allow livestock industries time to adjust. Live exports should be replaced with a carcass trade. This will not only improve the welfare situation for livestock raised for slaughter but will provide an opportunity to improve infrastructure and create jobs in regional Australia. Yes, this will be challenging in northern Australia where the Wet Season precludes mustering and transport to abattoirs but the problem can be solved. In the meantime it is critical that animal welfare standards are mandated and rigorously enforced – the upright stunning of animals prior to slaughter, regular independent 3rd party audits, closed systems with supply chain assurance and permanent identification of animals from farm to post slaughter.

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