

15 July 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

SUBMISSION

I am writing regarding the submissions open to the public for the Independent Livestock Export Review.

I am strongly against the live animal export trade as it is inherently cruel, particularly so with regards to the transportation of these animals by ship to their destination and then the appalling cruel treatment inflicted on them in these countries where there is very little regard for animal welfare. These countries have even less interest in enforcing the standards of the international agreement they are a signatory to and meting out appropriate punishment.

Once these animals leave Australia their welfare cannot be guaranteed. We have witnessed this to be the case with the recent Four Corners footage of the cruelty our animals endured in Indonesian abattoirs. This footage was sickening, showing poor slaughtering techniques and facilities, which have only been endorsed and enforced by Australian industry such as MLA and LiveCorp. These bodies have unfortunately let the monetary benefits override their responsibility to ensure and manage Australian animal welfare in importing countries.

There is evidence to support the end of live animal export and for the animals to subsequently be processed in Australian abattoirs, in turn providing greater benefit to our economy as well as ensuring the welfare of the animal is always considered and paramount.

Animal cruelty will continue if we keep exporting our animals to these countries, that is a given. The public will no longer continue to allow and condone such practices.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Clift