

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the Governments decision to continue Live Exports.

I believe it is in Australia's best interest to Ban All Live Exports as it has been proven time and again that appropriate animal welfare controls cannot be enforced due to both cultural and geographical difficulties. Along with the fact that when money is involved companies will always turn a blind eye to misconduct in favour of financial gain, therefore, the exporters themselves should in no way have any power to decide what is right and acceptable. They had their chance and have shown they are incapable of being trusted. Many of them have no respect for animals, they see them as an object created by themselves to make moeny.

In the past we were always informed that Veterinarians were on board and at abattoirs to ensure animal welfare and of course the previous issues with Egypt have shown that this is not enough as once again, if you're on the payroll, your decision can be swayed.

The Live Export industry has been covered over the years by many media programs such as 'A Current Affair' and '60 Minutes' along with all the animal welfare groups and still our protests are ignored.

Australia is a developed nation and as such should behave as one. Nations move forward based on their ability to change outdated and unacceptable behaviours conducted by previous generations in favour of more sustainable and socially acceptable modes of behaviour. America no longer trades in slaves and Australia no longer allows orphans to be abused and so on...

The greatest economic gains will be made if we process livestock here on our own shores and sell a top quality frozen product. We should strive to be known throughout the world as producers of prime beef and lamb etc that has been produced from animals that were well fed and well cared for and processed safely.

The animals that are exported arrive in shocking condition, many die en route and they are basically sold as a cheap, nasty product. It simply doesn't make economical sense.

Then there is the welfare issue. I take enormous offence at being attached to a Nation that would allow that kind of treatment to any living being. We are culturally different from some other nations and for that I am proud.

Please don't bring Australia into the dark ages by supporting the barbaric beliefs of others. We stand tall as a great nation and if this continues we are no better than some of the third world dictators that we claim to oppose.

A total ban on live export is the only way to move forward.

Kind Regards
Lisa Stevens