

To the Committee,

I applaud the Australian Government's decision to implement an immediate suspension to exports of live cattle to Indonesia. I totally agree that nothing short of this immediate ban, was required in the first instance. I am dismayed, however, to hear that this decision has been repealed, with Senator Ludwig's announcement that he would like to see a resumption of this disgusting practice in as little as a few weeks. How can it be plausible that such change to the appalling practices that we all bore witness to and felt sick to our stomach watching, can be cleaned up in as little as 6 weeks or so, when there has been little or no change to this practice over the past 14 years or more, despite a great deal of Australian tax payer money being put towards equipment and training of workers in Indonesian slaughter houses.

Whilst some facilities were named and shamed, there are numerous other facilities that have not yet been verified by necessary investigation, to be following appropriate procedures as set out by LiveCorp. Even then, it is likely that any facilities that are following the procedures as set out by LiveCorp, are still using the Australian designed and supplied restraint boxes, that have also been deemed as cruel, and have added to the controversy. Until thorough investigation of every facility in Indonesia has been undertaken, then I do not believe it is appropriate to have any more Australian livestock loaded on ships, headed to a probable horrendous death.

I also believe that such an investigation should no longer be the role of LiveCorp, and instead should be the role of suitably qualified Veterinarians. Mr Cameron Hall, CEO of LiveCorp, has been shown up for his deceit, lack of transparency, lack of appropriate standards, lack of accountability and lack of effectiveness. The important role of the MLA has also been sadly neglected, and I believe that staff working in key roles in the MLA, have been absolutely negligent e.g. the visitation to just 2 slaughter houses in Indonesia last year, whereby what was seen, was, "Not good!", yet no further investigation was entered into. Given the amount of past funding that has been thrown to LiveCorp to develop and install equipment and to train Indonesian workers in the slaughter of Australian animals, the footage of the cruelty that was taking place, is even more abhorrent and harder to stomach. To fund any further equipment or further training, in my view, would be throwing good money after bad. Given that LiveCorp has been seen to be totally ineffective and deceitful with regard to this issue, it, together with the MLA, should be undertaking the payment of interim salaries to Australian livestock farmers, whose livelihoods are naturally being effected by the immediate ban of live exports. This would offer them some sort of compensation, for the MLA's and LiveCorp's total bungling of their core business, whilst livestock farmers await more humane and decent facilities and practices to be put in place.

In addition, in the long term, live exports should be banned totally, once time has been allowed for Australia to build the necessary facilities, develop the most humane and appropriate practices for slaughter and train the staff required to carry out such practices. As we know, this issue is not restricted to Indonesia and Australian cattle, it is also an issue in the Middle East with Australian sheep. Whilst there is a strongly held view, which was evidenced by interviews conducted with some slaughter house staff, that true halal meat, means that the animals are not allowed to be unconscious prior to their slaughter, then there will be no shift in these practices in these facilities. This was made very clear, when, despite the suggested provision of free stun guns, some of the facilities' staffs admitted that they would choose not to use them. The fact that LiveCorp has been working with these facilities and their staff for 14 years or so, already, and from what I saw, have made little or no progress, just reinforces that there is no incentive on the part of these facilities and their staff to change their practices, unless they are made to, by a forced suspension of their operations, due to lack of livestock supply. Why would they bother, when there are no laws in their country making animal cruelty a crime? What sort of guarantee can be made, that these slaughter

facilities and their staff will not fall back into their cruel methods and practices, once they have been accredited? Short of having independent inspectors at every one of these facilities, 24 hours per day, there is no guarantee of what sort of practices will be employed. I believe that these facilities and their staff members cannot be trusted, as according to LiveCorp, these staffs had all already received significant training and direction. That being the case, then the workers in the Indonesian slaughter houses were apparently choosing to blatantly ignore all of this Australian tax payer and livestock farmer funded, training and advice.

Past and very recent video, of the treatment of Australian sheep in the Middle East, serves to add insurmountable weight to the argument that live animal export is inherently cruel. Long term goals need to be set in motion, to set up sufficient halal certified facilities in Australia, whereby numerous Australian jobs would be created and the practices could be much more easily monitored and verified as cruelty free. Perhaps Australia should invest in the supply of refrigerators that run on generators, and provide these to Indonesian villages that do not have such conveniences, rather than investing in hundreds of stun guns that will merely lie idle in some of the slaughter houses, whilst Australian livestock continues to be inhumanely and cruelly killed. I also fail to see how stun guns will prevent appalling practices such as breaking the animals legs, slicing their back leg tendons, eye and nose gauging, tail breaking, beating across the nose and head, poking with sharp ended sticks, or being trampled, jumped and stomped on. If someone can, then I would love for them to explain to me, how this will come about.

It seems to me that regardless of what is expected of overseas treatment of Australian livestock, the excuses for treating our livestock inhumanely, just keep rolling out. Poor Indonesian people do not have refrigerators, Australia is unable to process true Halal meat, (Australia has Halal approved slaughter houses), the training and equipment provided to slaughter house staff has ended the cruel practices, (obviously the videos have proven this to be an absolute lie), Australian slaughtered and chilled or frozen meat is too expensive for Indonesians, (apparently only wealthier Indonesians eat Australian beef, and have refrigerators, whilst the poorer Indonesians eat Indonesian raised beef, and from what I could gather, the halal killed meat was cooked and eaten on the same day, thereby negating the need or refrigerators anyway.), etc. These paltry excuses hold weight no more!! They are what they are – just excuses for continuing a horrendous practice of serious and unspeakable animal cruelty. It is time that the Australian Government say they have had enough of the excuses, that sufficient money, support, training and equipment have been provided, only for all of this to make little or no difference to the treatment of Australian animals, and therefore, uphold the ban of live beef export to Indonesia, and it is time for the Australian Government to set a date by which time Australia will permanently call it quits, to all live export of Australian bred animals.

If what I have said, does not jog the Committee's conscience sufficiently, I leave you with several quotes from people who I hope will motivate the Committee to make the right decision for Australia and for its beautiful animals, that deserve so much better.

1). *"If the extension of your compassion does not include all living beings, then you will be unable to find peace by yourself."* Albert Schweitzer – Theologian, organist, physician, philosopher, medical missionary and Nobel Peace Prize winner 1952

2). *"Man, as nature's frail being, was endowed with two things that should make him the strongest amongst animals. Reason and sociability."* Lucio Anneo S`eneca – Born 4 AD in Spain. Tutor of the young Emperor Nero. When Nero succeeded to the throne he was then one of Nero' chief conselors. When he fell out of favour with Nero, he was wrongly accused and convicted without a trial, of plotting to assassinate Nero. He and wife committed suicide together, victims of Nero's tyranny.

3). *“When man feels compassion towards all living beings, then he will be noble.”* Buda – Spiritual teacher from ancient India who founded Buddhism.

4). *“Love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man.”* Charles Darwin – naturalist, geologist and he proposed the now widely accepted scientific Theory of Evolution.

5). *“Sometimes they ask me why do I invest so much time and money talking about kindness to animals, when there is so much cruelty amongst men. My answer is: I am working at the roots.”* George T Angell – American lawyer and philanthropist. Advocacy for the humane treatment of animals became his lifelong passion after witnessing 2 horses being run to death. He founded the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Humane Education Society.

6). *“Man has turned earth into a hell for animals.”* Arthur Schopenhauer – 19th century German philosopher.

7). *“Two things have surprised me: The intelligence of animals and the beastliness of men.”* Flora Tristan – French socialist writer and activist, born 7th April, 1803

8). *“A county or civilisation can be judged by the way it treats its animals.”* Mahatma Gandhi – Born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, on 2nd October, 1869, but referred to as Mahatma, which stands for “great soul”. Political and ideological leader during the Indian Independence Movement. He inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

I urge the Committee to make an intelligent, compassionate, sociable, reasoned and noble decision, and have Australia judged internationally, as a country that has high moral standing, as a country that does not tolerate abuse towards any animal, and as a country that, will indeed, speak out and act out, against animal cruelty.

Your faithfully,

Judi Storer