

The Senate
Animal Welfare Standards
Parliament
Australia

Dear Sirs

Submission AGAINST the Live Animal Export Trade

I strongly oppose of the Live Animal Export trade.

The prohibition and ban of the Live Animal Export trade must be made legislative.
I uphold that the Banning of Live Animal Exports be made into Law.

It is extremely disappointing that Ms Julia Gillard is doing nothing about banning the Live Animal Export Trade. Julia Gillard is not listening to the Australian community. The Australian community wants the Live Animal Export trade TO END.

Investigations in Middle Eastern and Asian Abattoirs:

It's hard not to be moved by investigations revealed by animal investigators, such as Tommy, the black steer who was forced to stand alone watching and trembling in abject terror as his companions were killed and carved up in front of him. Animal cruelty affects all our consciences, and politicians should not be censored from representing the ethical concerns of their constituents.

I implore you to please click on the below website and view this Video, and view the cruel and prolonged painful treatment that Australian Cattle and Sheep are subjected to in Turkish slaughterhouses:

http://www.animalsaustralia.org/take_action/turkey-live-export-investigation/

(please click on the 'full edit' version)

One poor Sheep is even kicked by a Turkish slaughterman for absolutely no reason at all. This is nothing but abuse.

Below are the Facts Supporting the Prohibition of the Live Animal Export Trade:

- Over the past 30 years, Australia has sent more than 160 million sheep and cattle to be slaughtered throughout the Middle East and South East Asia, where laws do not protect them from cruelty. **If there are laws in Australia which protect Animals from cruelty, then why does the Government continue to send the Animals to countries which lack these Animal Welfare Laws! This does not make sense.**
- Depending on their destination, the journey by boat can take up to 3 weeks, during which time the animals remain in cramped conditions and must endure all weather extremes, including extremely bad weather.
- Regrettably, **extreme fear, unpreventable disease (such as pneumonia and severe depression) and injury which the cattle and sheep suffer from, are synonymous with ‘long hauls’ at sea carrying livestock** and this is undeniably unconscionable.
- Every year, thousands of animals die during the journey. In 2010, just under 27,000 sheep died en route to the Middle East and 1,000 cattle died on ships.

The Overseas Journeys by Boat:

I have also done my own research on how the exported Sheep and Cattle are treated on the boats during the sea journeys. I have come across further horrible facts of terrible cruelty and abuse that these exported animals are subjected to:

- Dead and terminally ill sheep are frequently thrown down long vertical shafts into a cargo net. The long vertical shafts are very high and are several storeys and several decks long.
The Sheeps’ bones and bodies are broken by this drop.
There are even incidents of dead and terminally ill sheep (i.e. they are still alive!) being thrown out to sea!
These incidents of throwing sheep (alive and dead) over board into the sea are not recorded by the Veterinarians on the boat.
Terminally sick sheep are meant to be put down humanely, **not thrown out to sea!**
These incidents of throwing live sheep **out to sea** and down the vertical shafts are unlikely to be included in a master’s voyage reports in order to avoid the risk of the companies’ chance of losing the license to engage in this trade – **this is absolutely despicable and a dishonest business practice.**
- On the boats, many Cattle and Sheep are found dead or terminally ill before treatment can be given to them.
The terminally ill Sheep and Cattle are joined by the dead into the sea or the cargo net.

- On arrival at Middle Eastern ports, State Veterinary Technicians come onto the boats and collect blood samples from the animals.
The blood samplers are often seen to take up to 18 needle jabs before finding the jugular vein.
During the blood collection procedure they lay their syringes and needles in faeces and dirt on the deck. **This is absolutely unhygienic.**
It would not be surprising if the blood samplers used the same dirty syringes and needles on the rest of the animals.
It is at this point our poor animals lose any care the Australian veterinarians on board can offer.
- Evidence has shown that Sheep sent on long ocean hauls were 12 times more likely to die of stress, disease and accidents than Sheep left in the paddock in spite of drought and bush fires.
Therefore, what is the point of exporting live animals if most of them die ‘en route’ anyway, therefore resulting in loss of money and profit.
- Proponents of the Live Animal Export trade argue that low death rates are a trivial indicator of cruelty. They argue that only 0.44% of sheep dying out of 65,000 sheep represents that very little cruelty has occurred. However, this is a very incorrect assumption or fallacy.
- Unpreventable disease and injury is inevitable in the nature of the live animal export trade.
As unpreventable disease and injury of the animals is unavoidable, then what is the point of having the live animal export trade?
Not only is this essentially cruel to the exported animals, but it is simply a waste as many exported live animals die during the journey or arrive diseased at the destination.

Examples of Disease and Injuries suffered by the Animals during the journeys to the overseas destinations:

- Fractures
- Starvation
- Wool shedding (due to extreme stress)
- Pneumonia (exhaust fumes from the travel by truck, animals on the top decks are especially exposed to this. This is most likely to be a factor for developing pneumonia at sea).
- Hyperthermia
- Suffocation
- Trauma resulting in deficits to the skin
- Abortion (some pregnant ewes end up losing their babies)
- Pigmentation of the kidney
- Severe Depression

- On the overseas journeys most of the disease contracted by the animals is brought on by excessive fear and stress.
- There is poor ventilation and inadequate air changes on the boats where the animals are kept, therefore adding further to the inevitability of contracting diseases.
- The Australian veterinarians on board the boats are often silenced by “confidentiality agreements” and are unable to disclose these atrocious facts about the bad treatment and cruelty which the cattle and sheep and other animals aboard are subjected to. These “confidentiality agreements” are unconscionable.

The Cruelty Inflicted on the Exported Animals in Asia and the Middle East:

- Sheep exported to the Middle East are routinely subjected to rough handling and transport. They are often dragged, bound with rope or wire, and transported in car boots.
- Evidence most recently documented in Indonesia shows Australian exported cattle having their eyes gorged, being whipped and kicked, having their tails broken, having their leg tendons slashed and being tripped to the floor by ropes. **By continuing to export cattle to Indonesia, the Australian Government is undeniably condoning this cruelty towards the Animals.**
- The vast majority of Australian animals exported are slaughtered whilst fully conscious. **This practice is absolutely cruel and unacceptable. This practice of slaughtering cattle and sheep whilst they are fully conscious is not only unconscionable but also unnecessary.**
- The operation of Australia’s live export industry and the tens of thousands of animals that die en route each year sets an example that profit is more important than Animal Welfare. **This is simply hypocritical**, as this totally goes against the Australian Community’s standards and principles in terms of upholding Animal Welfare.
- Rather than inspiring desperately needed change in attitudes and handling, Australia’s willingness to supply animals for slaughter regardless of how cruelly they will be treated only reinforces long held beliefs that the cruel treatment of animals is acceptable **(when it is not!)**
- Despite exporting animals live to overseas countries for the last 30 years, evidence consistently shows that animals continue to be treated terribly. **Why does the Government continue to let this happen!?**
- Live export is not critical to Australia's economy. Australia’s boxed meat exports each year are worth 6 times more than live exports.

- Australia sends halal-certified meat to every country we export live animals, with demand for chilled and frozen meat from Australia growing rapidly.
- According to ACIL Tasman's reviews into the live sheep trade, sheep processed domestically (where animals are humanely slaughtered without cruelty) contribute 20% more to the Australian economy than sheep sent overseas.
- **Note: Every animal exported overseas takes Australian jobs with it. The vast majority of jobs currently supported by live exports will still exist without the live animal export trade.** The AMIEU states tens of thousands of jobs have been lost in the meat processing sector as a result of live export.
- The Live Animal Export trade is certainly not indispensable. Our Economy is not dependant upon it.
- Why can't Australia provide chilled and frozen meats instead for exporting overseas. Therefore opening up more markets and jobs within Australia.
- **By terminating the Live Animal Export Trade we have the reassurance that ALL animals will be slaughtered in our own Country humanely, safely, and without pain.**
- The fact that there are remote inland villages in Indonesia, Asia, Borneo and the Middle East, etc which do not have electricity nor refrigeration for storing chilled and frozen meats is a poor excuse to keep the Live Animal Export Trade continuing.
- It is not our responsibility that remote areas in these Countries are not up with the modern times.
- If Indonesia, Asia and the Middle East have the revenue for buying Live Animal Exports, then they certainly have the revenue for also aiding their poor and remote with electricity and refrigeration. Frankly, it appears to be nothing but a big farce.
- I strongly believe that the Live Animal Export Trade is **inherently cruel** towards the animals, and I categorically want the Live Animal Export Trade **stopped permanently**.

Thank you.

Mr Gary Stewart