

To Whom it May Concern,

We would like to make a submission to this live export review on behalf of the millions of animals that have suffered so a privileged few could make money.

Time and again, in multiple countries, we have seen graphic evidence that animals exported overseas are routinely subjected to abuse, after which they must endure a prolonged and painful death whilst fully conscious. That applies only to those who survive the journey of course, although thousands don't.

And time and again, the live export industry has failed completely to improve animal welfare standards. The reasons for this are abundantly clear and insurmountable. As I saw one farmer admit, "when we sell them, we also sell the right to decide their fate". We have no jurisdiction in other countries, nor do we have the right to demand they treat these animals in ways that go against their culture and religion, as abhorrent as their treatment of these poor animals may seem to us. That we have no real power to change animal welfare outcomes has become quite obvious over the years and was illustrated most recently by the Indonesian's list of demands with regard to live animal export and their refusal to concede that their abuse and slaughter of our "aggressive" cattle was cruel.

I hope you have no doubt that the majority of Australians are staunchly opposed to live export and do not trust either the live export industry or the government to safeguard the welfare of our animals overseas. It is an inherently cruel trade that causes immense suffering and should have been banned many years ago. The New Zealand government banned live export for slaughter despite the inevitable protests from animal farmers (who now support the ban). Why can't we?

All involved in and who support this trade should be ashamed, and that includes not only our government, but the farmers, who have shown themselves to be utterly cold-blooded when it comes to the welfare of the animals they claim to love. Live export is truly a blight on our international reputation as a civilised nation who cares about animal welfare.

Yours sincerely,

The McKay family