

To the Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport

I am writing to you with respect to the above matter and am making the following submission to you to support an immediate ban of live trade to Indonesia and an end date for all live animal exports. I also would request that the government reinstate the ban of live trade to Indonesia to prevent continued inhumane treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia. I also request that the Senate Standing Committees please support the passage of the Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No.2] and the Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2] which seek an end date for all live animal exports within 3 years. I would also recommend that in the interim years, that the Australian Government together with industry implement the highest standards of animal welfare, which are confirmed to go beyond those set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The recent expose revealing severe animal cruelty cases against Australian cattle in Indonesian abattoirs has demonstrated clear evidence that the industry is in need of independent monitoring and review. Furthermore, the recent concern about live export, which is a federal animal welfare responsibility, highlights the need for a national agency to address animal welfare issues. In light of the recent situation of the treatment of Australian cattle exported to Indonesia, and the recent reporting of the lack of credible research into slaughter of such cattle in Indonesia, it is clear that Australia needs a Non-Departmental Public Body to review and recommend advice on animal welfare matters. As a result, I recommend the establishment of an *Australian Animal Welfare Council* to provide accurate independent advice on animal welfare matters.

In light of the recent situation of the treatment of Australian cattle exported to Indonesia, and the recent reporting of the lack of credible research into slaughter of such cattle in Indonesia, I support the calls for the establishment of an independent body to manage animal welfare funding and provide accurate independent advice to Government on animal welfare matters affecting the national interest. I feel this is necessary especially after evidence from the investigation in Indonesia also showed that that Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and Livecorp have directly contributed to the inhumane treatment of Australia cattle in Indonesia. As a result, the establishment of an *Australian Animal Welfare Council*, (which is long overdue and urgently warranted) will ensure that Australia is a world leader in animal welfare policy and practice into the future. I would also point out that world leading expert in animal behaviour, Professor Temple Grandin, has reported that research agrees that throat-cutting without stunning **does not induce instantaneous unconsciousness**. Ritual slaughter remains to submit animals to some level of cruelty and **is inhumane**. **If the government maintains live cattle export, they must include a guarantee that slaughter without stunning (known in most cases as ritual (halal or kosher) slaughter) will not occur.**

Thank you for your time on this matter. Please support this submission.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lisa Ackerman BVSc (Hons)