

Submission

It is in regard to the Live Export trade, which I feel given many years knowledge of known cruelty and suffering both during transit and at destination for the livestock concerned.

After recent events and events in the past when the general public have been made aware through independent sources that the live export trade is cruel and barbaric and on these occasions the government has been forced to suspend the trade, because of public outrage.

The Meat and Livestock Australia have been proven to be unable and unwilling unless forced, to attempt to improve animal welfare during transit and at wet markets at destination.

The slaughter boxes Mark I supplied by the industry and used overseas, do not meet Australian standards of welfare and it is disgusting that an Australian industry is responsible for designing such a piece of equipment that would not be allowed in Australia. While new equipment that does meet Australian welfare standards may be supplied to these countries including the use of stunning, it is more than likely that poor compliance will continue unless there is constant presence of welfare officers, which again is an unrealistic goal.

The Industry has clearly shown that it is consistently incapable having been given many opportunities to fix the issues in improving standards of animal welfare in their export markets that I now find it unacceptable for Australia to continue this trade in the knowledge that we can never ensure the well being of our livestock from the moment they leave the shore. Australia no longer has any faith or trust in an Industry that has failed to protect our animals to such a degree.

The countries receiving the livestock from Australia all have poor records of animal welfare and little or no laws concerning welfare, so in many ways it is hardly surprising the issues cannot be fixed or enforced. This in itself is a major problem that does not bode well for the industry if it is allowed to continue.

This inability to be able to influence animal welfare in countries which livestock is exported to is a problem that cannot be fixed, and the only way to ensure that the expected standards of Australian Animal Welfare can be met is if livestock are slaughtered on shore with the added benefit of providing employment for Australians.

I am asking that this trade be phased out permanently.

Genevieve Jeffreys