

Please find attached my submission form to the live animal export review.

After viewing Four Corners on the Live Animal Export trade investigated by RSPCA and Animals Australia, I was shocked and deeply disturbed by the appalling scenes on the program of the cruelty and abuse of our cattle in the Indonesian abattoirs. This behaviour is unacceptable with no regard to animal welfare standards and shocking inhumane treatment in slaughter is abhorrent. There should be an immediate end to the horrific treatment of Australian cattle in these overseas abattoirs. If we continue to export our cattle to countries with no animal welfare protection, then they will continue to suffer unnecessarily.

It is also very concerning that there is irrefutable evidence that long distance sea transportation (Ships of Death) these animals endure causes stress, distress, injuries and illness.

Animals exported in this manner are cruelly exposed to: Overcrowding, oxygen deprivation, heat stress, pneumonia, trauma, diarrhoea, blindness and ammonia poisoning which causes respiratory ailments.

In a recent news article by Dr Reeve-Johnson (**a veterinary surgeon accredited with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service**) and his concerns of inspections of live exports whilst travelling the distances to other countries said he had witnessed first-hand the inner workings of the "fundamentally flawed" live export industry where livestock companies were allowed to be self-policing. Please read attached article: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/vet-worried-about-dodgy-inspections-of-live-exports/story-fn59niix-1226093400993>

This kind of cover-up clearly shows another example that live export of our animals is flawed in many ways. So I ask why should this to happen in this day and age when we have many alternatives to exporting meat to other countries and yet we live in the dark ages and transport our cattle and other animals in an antiquated and out dated manner.

Worse, when animals reach their destination, they may be tied up for hours or days without water, before finally being killed in acts of horrific and indifferent cruelty.

The Australian training of the slaughtermen in Indonesia has been grossly inadequate. Animals smash their heads repeatedly on concrete as they struggle against ropes, take minutes to die in agony after repeated often clumsy cuts to the throat. In some cases there is abject and horrifying cruelty - kicking, hitting, eye-gouging and tail-breaking - as workers try to force the cattle to go into the slaughter boxes installed by the Australian industry, with Australian Government support.

Using OIE guidelines as a benchmark for the treatment of Australian animals in Indonesia is totally unacceptable. OIE guidelines are base level standards designed to guide countries that don't have animal protection regulations. OIE guidelines do not require upright restraint so animals can still be knocked over onto their sides for slaughter; they do not require pre-slaughter stunning; and they in fact do not prohibit roping slaughter whereby animals are forcibly tripped and pulled to the floor for the throat cut. OIE guidelines do not

represent acceptable welfare standards and should not be sold as such. OIE guidelines is no solution. Indonesia was an OIE signatory and the guidelines were not enforced. And there is no way to police this requirement across tens of thousands of abattoirs worldwide."The OIE guidelines do not require stunning before slaughter of cattle. Without stunning, cattle can exhibit indicators of possible consciousness for up to 2 minutes after the throat is cut, leading to a slow and pain death. The welfare standards which are acceptable to the Australian public and farmers cannot be guaranteed in overseas markets.

MLA have a responsibility to maintain and improve animal welfare standards in Indonesia and clearly this has not occurred. The Australian cattle industry in crisis as a direct result of the failure to maintain animal welfare standards and it is important to know how this happened and determine where the responsibility lies.

The MLA has failed at monitoring and making improvements that benefitted animal welfare standards. As well as the restraint boxes, currently being used is not a humane slaughter process. I am appalled that this restraint box was made by Australia and passed Australian welfare standards to be used in Indonesia.

The time has come to improve and increase processing in Australia to support local jobs and communities. The local benefits of processing meat in Australia have been underestimated for too long and are being talked down by the live export industry.

Processing animals in Australia protects them from inhumane treatment and ensures our laws and standards regarding animal welfare can be upheld.

By growing our meat export trade we can create more local jobs, support communities and maintain economic viability for producers. We should be investing in these economic opportunities rather than maintaining the live export trade which sees animals being unnecessarily inhumanely treated once they leave our shores.

I believe like many other Australians that this will increase more Australian jobs opportunities .Australians need every job we can get, and the elimination of the live export industry will create the biggest explosion in rural and urban jobs in Australia's history.

Thank you