

14 July 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

I am strongly opposed to Australia's live export trade. It is appalling that we treat animals in this manner let alone in 2011.

I cannot understand how this industry has been allowed to flourish, especially in light of the Cormo Express disaster in 2003.

I am not a vegetarian/vegan/"greenie", but I find the continued support of this trade to be immoral. My family, friends & I find it absolutely sickening and I am ashamed to be an Australian. If a small country like NZ can manage without live export (apart from their breeding stock), why can't we?

I originally lived in North Queensland and over the past 20 years a lot of abattoirs closed down, causing small towns outside of Charters Towers, i.e. Pentland to become ghost towns. I understand that the employment is seasonal, but surely it would be viable to re-open abattoirs in these areas.

Apart from increasing the coffers of a few graziers, what are the pros of continuing this cruel trade?

The advantages of processing the meat locally would be:

1. Create employment
2. Inject income into small regional towns
3. Reinvigorate the ailing meat processing industry
4. Create stronger relations with Indonesia by bringing over workers on a seasonal basis and providing training*

** This could be done in a similar way that some farms employ & accommodate overseas workers for seasonal work.*

Isn't there a push to get more people out of the cities and living in regional areas? This would definitely be one way of providing employment.

Yours faithfully,

Terina McDonald