

I would like to make a submission on the Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No.2] and the Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2] which have been jointly referred by the senate for inquiry.

I support a phasing out of all live animal export from Australia within three years as this practice is extremely cruel, causing pain and stress to the animals during long journeys to countries where there are no laws protecting them from cruelty. In addition by exporting live animals, we are exporting meat processing jobs overseas as evidenced by the closure of Australian abattoirs.

In the three year (hopefully shorter) phase-out period, I urge the Australian government to work with industry to implement higher standards of animal welfare than those set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). In particular, the OIE standards allow animals to be slaughtered while fully conscious, for so-called ritual slaughter. This must *not* occur. World leading expert in animal behaviour, Professor Temple Grandin, has reported that research agrees that throat-cutting without stunning does not induce instantaneous unconsciousness (1). Ritual slaughter submits animals to some level of cruelty and is inhumane.

(1) Grandin, T. and Smith, G.C., 2004, Animal Welfare and Humane Slaughter, Department of Animal Sciences, Colorado State University, available online at <http://bit.ly/7zu1ZE>.”

Sincerely

Rachel Mary Cassidy