

Submission to the Senate Inquiry

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 imperative that Australia establishes an *Australian Animal Welfare Council*, to be an independent body to manage animal welfare funding and provide accurate independent advice to Government on animal welfare matters affecting the national interest.

The need for this review, and subsequent establishment of an *Australian Animal Welfare Council*, is long overdue and urgently warranted so as to ensure that Australia is a world leader in animal welfare policy and practice into the future

I make the following points in terms of this submission:

- 1) Request the government reinstate the ban of live trade to Indonesia to prevent the continued inhumane treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia.
- 2) 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.
- 3) In the interim years, recommend 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).
- 4) 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 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.

Yours sincerely

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