



Southern Cross University Animal Law Club

PO Box 1023 Lismore 2480

NSW Australia



Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

**Re: Submission on Animal Welfare standards in Australia's live export markets, terms of reference, from SCU Animal Law Club (SCUALC).**

SCUALC was established in 2010 and comprises law students and others concerned to see animal laws reflect animal interests and not merely the needs of industry. SCUALC has been active on the live export issue since our inception. SCUALC took part in the WSPA humanecampus challenge throughout May, and our regional community of farmers, students, professionals and others flooded MP's offices with letters calling for a phase out of the live export trade, resulting in SCUALC winning the challenge, beating major universities across the country. SCUALC will continue to reflect the calls from our rural community for live export to be phased out and advocate best welfare practices for cattle as a minimum standard during phase out. SCUALC is opposed to live export in most instances.

SCUALC submits that live export is inherently cruel and that considering the long haul transport required for many journeys, no sufficient welfare measures will be cost effective, we would like to address three points in particular from the terms of reference.

**1. Investigate and report into the role and effectiveness of Government, Meat and Livestock Australia, Livecorp and relevant industry bodies in improving animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets, including:**

**a) The level, nature and effectiveness of expenditure and efforts to promote or improve animal welfare standards with respect to all Australian live export market countries;**

The sudden suspension of the live export trade to Indonesia could have been avoided had the MLA, Livecorp and relevant industry bodies paid due care and attention to the welfare conditions of animals in the slaughterhouses where Australian animals are sent. Throughout the past twenty years, revelations of cruel and below standard practices abroad have beleaguered the industry and each and every time that measures were sought to deal with the issue, they have promptly reappeared. No or insufficient improvements to the welfare of animals have resulted.

**1 a) (iii) actions to improve animal welfare outcomes in all other live export market countries and the evidence base for these actions.**

We refer you to the report by Graeme Mc Ewen, *'The Australian Governments role in the live animal trade; a policy veneer'*, Barristers Animal Welfare Panel, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007. This report enumerates repeated failures to improve the lives of animals sent abroad in the live export trade.

### 3. Other related matters.

Countries around the world look to phase out or ban live export as New Zealand has, and SCUALC submits that the only true solution to the live export industry's ongoing battle with welfare issues is to phase out the industry. The sending of animals on long haul sea voyages to the Middle East can never be humane or address their welfare needs as it is by definition, cruelty to land based, grass feeding, social animals.

Australia needs to focus energy on regulating markets within our jurisdiction as the only way to ensure good welfare for Australian animals.

Regards,

Anna Ludvik

President/Founder

On behalf of;

Southern Cross University Animal Law Club