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

RE: Inquiry – Animal Welfare standards in Australia's live export markets.

This submission is from the perspective of a Cattle producer located in the Roper Gulf of the Northern Territory.

We strongly support the industry of live cattle export from Australia, its continued existence and expansion into the long term future.

Personal Circumstances.

- Family operated cattle breeding pastoral property.
- Cattle herd is predominately Droughtmaster, Brahman cross. Operating below full capacity at present, herd development and improvement plan is in progress. Present cattle numbers are approximately 4000 head, including 1500 female breeders. Intend to develop the herd further to the capacity of the property to 5500 head; this will be achieved over the next 3 years.
- 80% previous years income earned from live export. Expected to increase as herd numbers increase.
- 17 years married, with 2 children who assist with property work. Previously owned another pastoral property south east of Alice Springs. Northern Territory. Sold that in 2007. Husband is 4th generation Northern Territory pastoralist. Husband and I both aged 40 years. Self employed, own our own business 17 years.
- The main incentive for purchase of Hodgson River was the existence of this trade. When we valued properties looking to purchase, Hodgson river station was the 30th property we inspected and considered in relation to our needs, aims and budget.

I would like to point out that my experience with livestock intended for live export is limited to only cattle, therefore references I make in the following submission to the live export markets will be in reference to live cattle exports and the related cattle industry, unless otherwise stated.

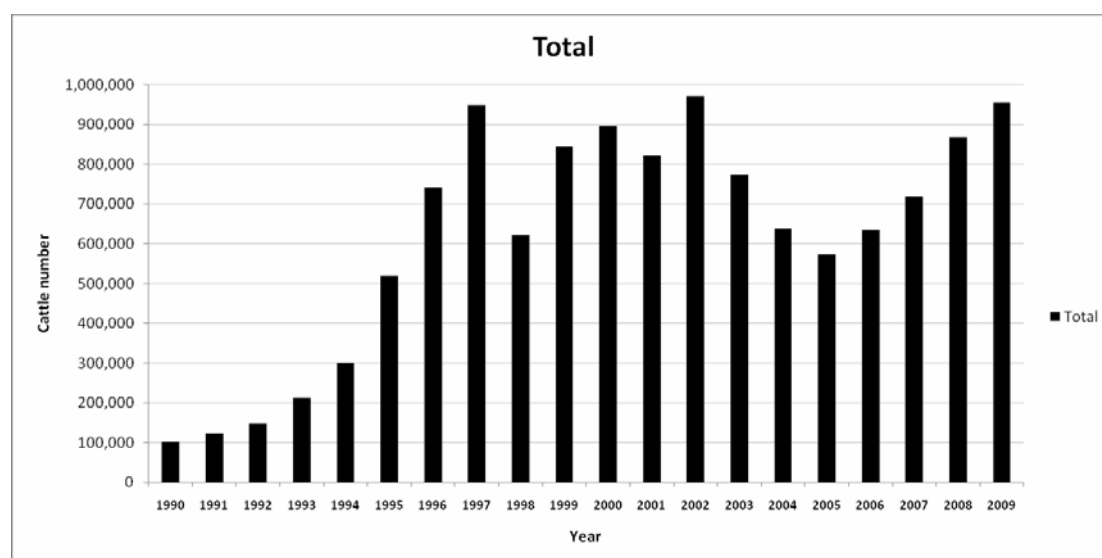
Terms of reference of this inquiry.

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.
 - i. Expenditure and efforts on marketing and promoting live export to Australian producers;

Marketing and promoting of live export to producers.

Figure 1. Summary of total cattle numbers exported from Australia (data from Livecorp).

Chart source MLA. Project W.LIV.0131.¹



As demand has increased for cattle to be supplied to the live export markets the increase in production has been actively supported by all governments Australia wide. The Northern territory government and related organisations, such as the departments of primary industries, land resources and animal production have continually assisted the producers of cattle. Their assistance helps improve our knowledge, herds and capabilities with the aim of improving efficiency, increase profits and increase long term sustainability of the businesses aimed at the live export trade.

Assistance and education from government has been provided in the form of

1. One on one direct liason with a department officers.
2. Workshops and information days.
3. Press releases and publications
ie Katherine Rural review.
4. Participation in courses aimed at improving a properties land use capabilities, addressing land resource issues and infrastructure development.
ie Grazing land management. Nutrition courses and herd improvement courses.

5. All these courses are able to be rebated through Farm biz, a federal government assistance rebate to lower the costs of attendance to pastoralists and employees.

All of these forms of education, learning and awareness are vitally important to increase the knowledge and skills of business operators to maintain our business's viability for the long term and to learn new techniques, ideas or developments.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) support many of the functions aimed at furthering education in relation to cattle production issues. These are meat profit days, field days and information days. Some courses are actually developed in-conjunction with MLA expertise and funding.

i.e. Northern Nutrition workshops are developed by Edge network, a joint venture owned by MLA, Department of natural resources and Environment.

Northern Territory Cattleman's Association (NTCA) held an AGM in Darwin in 2010. Sponsorship partly supplied by government and MLA. Guest speakers were, Heather Neil (RSPCA), Annabelle Coppin, - Animal welfare in the Middle east. Other workshops with sponsorship included Temple Grandin² has also spoken on one occasion in regards to animal handling and yard designs. Other speakers may talk about markets, current and directions and cattle breeding ideas.

Attendance to these meetings are vitally important to a producer if they are interested in keeping up to date with new ideas and techniques of management of the herd.

Due to distance and time constraints I can't always attend as many of these courses as I would like but I do find them very informative when I do. I would like to see many more like them continue.

Encouragement of the development of the export market and herds suited to the live export trade.

"Much of the country from Kununurra to the Barclay Tableland is suitable only for cattle grazing. So with virtually no processing facilities from Townsville right around to Perth, there are no options – its export or close down"

Source. <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2010/s3223504.htm>

"The Top End of Australia is predominantly mineral deficient breeding country, incapable of supplying significant numbers of finished cattle to a domestic abattoir. A domestic abattoir in the NT will also face significant issues in sourcing cattle through the extended wet seasons. Using our cost structure to grow, slaughter, pack export and sell; Australian beef would be unaffordable to the vast number of Indonesians. Even if they

had distribution and refrigeration infrastructure to handle frozen beef.”

Source. NTCA. Information pamphlet. Support Live export – Ban animal cruelty. Email 19.06.11.

The Northern area of Australia is well suited to open cattle grazing it has been the main activity encouraged in this area. Some horticultural and intense land use areas exist, but cattle production aimed at the live export is the main focus.

*“Over time cattle breeds in the far north of Australia have become dominated by *Bos indicus* genetics as a result of the superior production performance of these breeds in the harsh northern environment, a result in part of tolerance to high temperatures and internal parasites, as well as greater tick resistance. The proportion of *Bos indicus* and *Bos indicus* crossbreeds in northern Australia has risen from 5% in 1970 to approximately 85% at present, mainly as a result of widespread use of Brahman cattle and their derivative breeds such as Droughtmaster, Santa Gertrudis, Braford, Brangus, Charbray, Simbrah and Brahmousin (Burns, Fordyce et al. 2010).”*

Source MLA report W.LIV 0131. ‘Linking pre export factors to post delivery performance in cattle exported from northern Australia to Indonesia’ Dated October 2010

Indonesia tends to have a similar climate to Northern Australia and therefore has found the Brahman types of cattle well suited to their import needs. Animals weighed below 350kg are inducted into the Indonesian feed lot system with value adding and feeding for 90 days before slaughter. Animals prior to 2010 that were above 350kg were immediately slaughtered upon arrival into Indonesia.

In summary – Promoting of live export to north Australian producers has been the only focus for the cattle industry development in northern Australia as open grazing and *bos Indicus* cattle are better suited to the conditions in this area. This has been heavily encouraged by government and all cattle industry groups for a long period of time.

ii. Ongoing monitoring of the subscription to, and practise of, animal welfare standards in all live export market countries

I would like to see more independent bodies in conjunction with MLA improve the overseeing of regulatory arrangements in all export markets, such as adherence to OIE standards.

I believe current regulations are adequate but not necessarily always implemented to their best effectiveness.

i.e. Permanent welfare officers should be stationed in all export markets to oversee proper conduct and animal welfare adherence. Its great that a country is a signatory of the OIE rulings but they also must implement them. It also needs to be proven to Australia that the importing country is adhering to the OIE regulations.

It needs to be remembered *that “MLA, the livestock industry and Government do not have the power to enforce animal welfare standards in any country”* Source. www.mla.com.au. *Important facts about livestock exports to Indonesia 17.07.11*

It is vitally important that good trade relations are continued to develop with our exporting countries.

1. This is because as a relatively small population, Australia is heavily dependant on exporting goods for income. The countries we export too, have massively greater sized populations than our own and can offer good long term opportunities and earnings.
2. Ability of a richer nation to provide protein and nutrition to a poorer nation.
3. Encourages good trade relations along with other industries, such as wheat exports and boxed beef.
4. Through Australia’s investment of knowledge and money the poorer country can improve and develop economically by creating employment for their own people and improving living standards.

To ensure animal welfare issues are met as well as improve long term sustainability of the live export industry. The foundation basis should be the ‘Exporter controlled supply chain traceability and Assurance system.’ This was developed by the Industry government working group.³

“The aim of the traceability system is to verify that cattle are being directed through approved facilities at each stage of the supply chain. In particular, the traceability system must meet the following objectives

1. *Must deliver high levels of confidence to both the Australian government and the broader community that the supply chain is controlled, that the whereabouts of cattle are known at any point in time, and that acceptable animal welfare standards are being applied.*
2. *The implemented system must enable the trace-back of individual animals to exported, with future export permits granted based on an exporters ability to ensure that all animal are directed through facilities that meet OIE animal welfare standards.*

Source NTCA Luke Bowen Live export update 24.06.11. email

As a producer I would feel satisfied that our animals are being treated humanely if the Exporter controlled supply chain system is implemented. I support the establishment of this system to our exporting countries markets that meets OIE standards.

As producers we would be willing to use National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) as currently used for all cattle changing ownership within Australia.

I believe better explanation on websites and improved general public knowledge is required, for explanation of various occurrences in relation to live trade needs to be also documented.

The requirement to be transparent means reports must be made available to the public for organisations such as MLA and Livecorp. This is the way it should be, but at times people with little understanding of agriculture have little or no understanding of animal tendencies.⁴

For example I can go onto the internet and find documents dating back to 1985 in regards to mortalities on board ships for animals exported. As raw figures these deaths represent horrendously large losses. But, few people would have a real perception of the whole number of animals involved if that same volume of animals were kept on a single land space. The difficulties in supply of food, water and health, then even less idea of the natural attrition through disease, pest, attacks, injury or any other reason that death may occur in a natural state.

For instance, on property we allow 1% deaths across our whole cattle herd due to sickness, injury, dog attacks and age. To then compare the 2010 figures of deaths of cattle to Indonesia by ship at less than 1% is to realise what a significant achievement the successful shipping figures are. The figures due to deaths because of drought, floods or other reasons are not readily available to act as a comparison to the ship mortality figures. Therefore people tend to focus only on the raw figure which doesn't tell the whole story.

Looking into the compilation of the statistics for the shipping losses will provide information on specific ship loads and destinations, even the reasons for the deaths. I then can look further to discover what actions were taken to prevent the problems that caused higher numbers of deaths.⁵

Unfortunately the general public tend to see only the initial figures and not investigate further to understand the underlying issues.

In summary: The Exporter supply chain system of traceability and assurance must be implemented for export markets, using the NLIS currently operating in Australia. This should be audited by an independent body.

Reporting made available to the producers, supply chain and general public. Explanations should be made in regards to the figures released with consideration given to the fact that some readers would have no experience or knowledge of Agriculture and animal related issues.

iii. Actions to improve animal welfare outcomes in all other live export market countries and the evidence base for these actions

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), spent \$4M in past ten year in infrastructure in Indonesia.⁶

I knew through talking to other pastoralists and qualified people who had been to Indonesia that the slaughter process in the past had been barbaric by Australian

standards. The people I spoke to had also seen the excellent facilities that Indonesia had built with the Australian government, MLA's and other Australian companies through joint ventures with Indonesia.⁷ These people had spoken to me about how impressed they were of the current facilities and infrastructure of the ships, feedlots and abattoirs. Their cleanliness, quality and effectiveness were often discussed. Including their obvious focus on high standards of animal welfare practices.

It was also my understanding through the MLA publications that welfare issues were being addressed.⁸ I had seen photographs of modern shipping facilities, feedlots and some of the abattoirs in Indonesia. I also knew that MLA has a strong presence in Indonesia with the largest concentration of 200 plus MLA personal in Indonesia alone. I have watched several television programs in regards to the shipping infrastructure and the ships themselves used to transport the animals. I had always been impressed by the tidiness and order of the structures and felt that the animals welfare was being well looked after in transit to Indonesia, in feedlots in Indonesia and in the slaughter of the animals in the abattoirs.

I assumed that the footage and information as I had seen prior to the 4 corners program was relative to the whole cattle industry of live imports in Indonesia. I have never been to Indonesia or travelled outside of Australia to inspect any facilities myself. In fact my understanding of Indonesians customs, rituals, culture and living standards would be simplistic at best. I believe most people in Australia would also have the same limited understanding of Indonesia.

Prior to the 4 corners program I had read articles concerning the improvements of the handling of stock prior to sea travel and the research has shown that mortality rates on the ships have been improved immensely from the early days of losses on ships. Especially on the short journeys ships travelled or 4 to 5 days. I also knew and understood the variances of supply of cattle numbers in the recent years of the trade and understood that the MLA research programs aimed at the live trade were intended to improve the suitability of cattle for that particular trade.

I had read various reports on animal welfare prior to shipping, while in transit and the factors which affected the animals health and improvements while in the feedlotting system of Indonesian awaiting slaughter.⁹

I had no idea of the cruelty as portrayed in the 4 corners program 'A bloody business' and was appalled at the treatment when I saw the footage on the 30th May 2011.

Yet through my own experience and awareness of the export industry I realised the images portrayed on the program were not indicative of the way all Australian animals are slaughtered in Indonesia.

In-fact I am highly sceptical of the procurement of the 4 corners footage and if bribery was used to encourage the brutality. I have neither read or seen any real evidence as to the places where the filming occurred, only generalised statements as made by Sarah Ferguson the producer of the program and presenter Lyn White. Various reports in the media have questioned the filming and airing time difference, the actual number of abattoirs filmed¹⁰ and the

ultimate motives of RSPCA and Animals Australia for wanting to shut down the live export trade of all animals from Australia.

I question the actual motives of the RSPCA and Animals Australia to ban live export to stop cruelty to animals while they have the knowledge that places like Indonesia will procure cattle from other countries that have possibly low standards of animal welfare and further distances in ships to travel. I also question the motive of Animals Australia who encourage veganism¹¹ not as a healthy lifestyle choice but as a guilt laden conscious as a protest against animal farming.

Unfortunately, through expert manipulation of the media the perception of widespread torture and cruelty to animals in Indonesia was the view expressed to the general public in the 4 corners program. It is one which many still believe. The fact that the Australian government banned the supply of all cattle to Indonesia for slaughter purposes for a month cemented the misconception to many people that the whole of the Indonesian slaughter trade was inherently mismanaged and cruel as depicted on the program.

This simply wasn't true.

It needs to be realised that Australia only fill approximately 30% of the requirements of Indonesians meat trade. The method of slaughter used on the cattle in the program was not correct Halal killing. It was also not indicative of the treatment of Australian animals in Indonesia.

Since that program I have researched more material via different medians and paid close attention to various and extensive articles that I can find, written since that day.

I have come to the conclusion that MLA had been actively involved in assisting the animal welfare issues in relation to slaughter in not only Indonesia but other countries such as Egypt. Proven by the fact that "Australia is the only country in the world to invest in another countries animal welfare practices"¹² It is my personal opinion that MLA communicated in various reports that animal welfare was an issue in other countries and to improve these circumstances required investment and education to address the problem.¹³

The accusation by many 'ban live export' supporters' that MLA did know but did nothing is a silly comment. If MLA representatives weren't aware of some of the animal welfare standards needing improvement. Then no monetary investment would have been offered or made available to the Indonesians to improve the standards. It is obvious that improvements have been made over the years and this I feel hasn't been given credit for. If this wasn't the case then the slaughter houses that meet Australian standards and OIE wouldn't exist at all. Improvements to pre-handling, shipping and feedlots located in Indonesia wouldn't have been completed, improved or even considered.

Considering that Indonesia isn't governed by Australia. I feel it was pertinent that MLA tried to educate, assist and fund in the improvement of infrastructure, handling and killing techniques rather than stipulate through regulations.

MLA had no legal jurisdiction to force change as to what an Australian standard was.¹⁴ Especially enforcing use of pre-stunning of animals being slaughtered, Australia on its own shores doesn't mandate stunning for some Halal and Kosher abattoirs.

The fact that Australia on its own shores has Halal and Kosher approved abattoirs is a little known fact to many Australians.¹⁵

Governing Industry bodies.

As previously stated I support the MLA's development and investment in other countries animal welfare infrastructure. I believe it should be increased 10 fold.

I also believe there was an expectation of MLA to oversee the animal welfare issues of Australian animals in another country.¹⁶

Personally we feel extremely let down by the organisation for there has been previous filming in other countries of animal welfare atrocities and the situation in Indonesia shouldn't have been allowed to occur with any of our animals not being slaughtered to minimum OIE standards.

OIE standards should be the basic minimum for all countries that we export live animals for slaughter to.

Evidence that Indonesia is going to adhere to OIE conditions was received in a notification from Adam Hill, Northern Territory Live export association 14.06.11.

"A set of assessment templates have been developed for the abattoirs. These will be trialled over the next couple of weeks. Each abattoir will need to develop a procedure for the management of the animals and slaughter practices. They will be required to demonstrate they have procedures in place to regularly train staff, maintain equipment and manage cattle"

b. The extent of knowledge of animal welfare practices in Australia's live export markets including:

i. Formal and informal monitoring and reporting structures;

Use of NLIS and traceability with the exporter controlled supply chain system.

ii. Formal and informal processes for reporting and addressing poor animal welfare practices.

A specific task group within MLA or livecorp should be used as a regulatory control group to audit with external independent people along the whole export supply chain. AQIS already supervise the aspects of the pre-exporting facilities. An external task group would oversee the whole processes affecting the animals life. From pre export, shipping, feed to death.

This group should compile reports available to government, producers and general public in regards to the OIE standards being met. Set tasks could be improved or actioned as the requirement is needed. Like a benchmarking

procedure. If particular scenerios are seen to be needing attention then these should be commented on by the task group in regards to changes, needs and if the changes improved or altered the processes. A similar process that already occurs with the shipping sector of the live export industry.

This group could include a representatives of the livestock industry, vets and others deemed necessary to have a high level of accountability, also including a representative of an animal welfare group such as RSPCA but not from radical groups such as Animals Australia.

2. Investigate and report on the domestic economic impact of the live export trade within Australia including:

- a. Impact on regional and remote employment especially in Northern Australia**
- b. Impact and role of the industry on local livestock production and prices;**
- c. Impact on the processing of live stock within Australia.**

Effect of no live exports for sale of livestock

Personal Level.

- If the live export market was stopped, even phased out, our property would not be viable to produce and sell cattle over the long term to markets and abattoirs currently located in Australia.
- No abattoirs currently exist in the top end of the Northern Territory of Australia. Plans to establish an abattoir near Darwin are currently underway. This will be privately built by a large pastoral company with its main focus to process its own herd's cattle. This abattoir is expected to offer only 10% processing room for animals outside of its own operations.¹⁷ This abattoirs original purpose was to process animals unsuitable for live export.
- Drastic negative impact on land valuations would make the land virtually unsaleable. Production in this area for large scale enterprises is only suited to open grazing cattle production.¹⁸

National economic Level.

- Live export trade underpins the whole meat trade within Australia. If the live export is stopped it will negatively affect prices by an estimate of nine cents less per kilogram within Australia.¹⁹
- Live export trade contributes \$1.8 billion to Australia gross domestic product and directly employs 13000 across Australia.²⁰

Environmental.

- With the added pressure of rising costs we could be forced to carry heavier stocking numbers to meet expenses. This would lead to eventual land degradation and animal welfare issues due to overstocking.²¹
- Due to lower profit margins specific environmental care initiatives we pay for ourselves, such as control of Belly ache bush and other noxious weeds would not occur. Control of feral animals would also been seen as too expensive and time consuming to maintain, further adding to the grazing pressure and land degradation.

Effect the temporary ban has had on our business and personal lives.

- In April we were organising to begin the 2011 muster. Our plan was to start mustering to gather the steers that are available to sell. To sell in July and September. With the types of cattle not suiting the Indonesia markets to be sold latter in the year, nearer October. These would have been heavier cattle for the Egyptian boat market or types for slaughter which would have been sent to QLD.
- QLD component of cattle would have made up about 15% of the livestock sold in 2011.
- 85% of our income was expected to be sourced from the live export trade.
- For 2011 we budgeted that we would sell 2 consignments of cattle into the live export markets of Indonesia. Prices quoted April 2011 were reasonable at \$1.65/kg weighed Katherine. Prices and demand for the cattle had been forecast to be steady and consistent for the year. With some forecasting increases in of quotas required by Indonesia.
- Our long term budgets over 5-10 years forecast earnings of increased cattle to live export of 800 head per annum with a projected income of conservatively \$400000 per annum.
- Due to weight restrictions in the previous year²² and lower numbers able to be sold into Indonesia market. We had altered our cattle selling criteria in 2010 to allow for more animals to be available in 2011 that suited the weight range of less than 350kg to suit the Indonesian market.
- When the 4 corners program aired,²³ we knew immediately that major negative repercussions on the live trade would follow. Mustering was postponed.
- We attended industry meetings and talks to consider ours and the industries position.
- We expected a ban of supply permits by the Australian government to the abattoirs that had unacceptable standards.
- We expected supply to be allowed to continue to those facilities that were known to be slaughtering already to Australian standards and used stunning including others that met OIE standards.²⁴ Abattoirs that operated to these standards before the 4 corners footage was aired were approximately 25.²⁵
- **The total ban on all live export to Indonesia announced the 7th July shocked us by its lack of consultation with industry and lack of regard to opinion, views, or repercussions to the people who worked in the industry and related entities.²⁶**
- **We had no forewarning to enable planning our monetary needs, organise funding or establish credit agreements with creditors. Our immediate source earnings capabilities were stopped instantly with the very real threat of not being re-established.**
- **No plans were in place at the time for alternative sale outlets for our cattle.²⁷ No consideration was given to the animal's welfare currently awaiting loading onto ships and no financial alternatives at the date of 7th July 2011 were on offer to pastoralists reliant on the live trade.²⁸**

- We haven't earned any income since the ban was announced. We have cashed in reserves of investments intended only for extreme emergencies. As at writing these are now exhausted. We have nearly maxed our loan limit, to meet running costs.
- We have decided to continue to muster as per our operating plans. Good cattle husbandry requires weaners to be removed from their mothers and control to be maintained of the production herd and offspring. This means substantial outlay of costs for vaccinations and treatments. Including weaner handling feeds such as lick and hay. Other costs associated with mustering include hire of helicopters, fuel and labour to assist with mustering. Including equipment used and costs associated with the upkeep of that equipment.²⁹
- At the time of writing the ban has been lifted with restrictions and Indonesia is reported to have issued permits for imports of 180000 head of cattle.³⁰ This is a strong positive step forward but, as yet isn't finalised.
- The compliance of the exporters to meet the requirements of the terms of trade is required for the issue of permits to supply live cattle to Indonesia, as yet we haven't been notified as to which exporters meet these requirements.
- We are unsure of prices to be paid for cattle or availability of space to place our cattle in those orders. We don't have a time frame as to when these permits will be filled. It is known that the volume will be greatly reduced
- We continue to muster while prospect of income is completely unknown.
- Fortunately we have the breed of Droughtmaster cattle, these can be suited to other markets beside the boat markets due to the type of animal they are. Sending our entire sales each year many thousands of kilometres by truck isn't a long term viable prospect though. In comparison to the earnings and profits we were making on the live export trade, the Australian options would be less earnings and often only break even prospects, if not losses in many cases.
- No abattoirs exist in the Northern territory except for a small one near Alice Springs.³¹
- We would be force to sell all our cattle interstate at extremely high costs in transport, animal welfare would be greatly compromised due to the long trips.³²
- The ban has placed considerable stress on us personally and our children.
- The industry of which we are very proud, has been vilified by the general public. In an organized publicity campaign of backlash and criticism. These misunderstood assumptions are based on misperceptions of all Australian cattle sold into Indonesia receiving cruel and torturous slaughter practices. This publicity has been fed directly to the public via the RSPCA, Animals Australia and Get up animal liberation campaigns calling for the live export to be banned.³³
- We have spent many hours writing to politicians and campaigning to have the Live export trade reinstated. All the while we are still carrying out our normal work load which happens to be also our busiest time of the year, mustering.

- I have applied for the Government supports as they have been announced³⁴ but these are of very small help in relative terms to costs. Neither my husband nor I have ever applied or received the dole but we are going to now.
- We are considering withdrawing money from our Self managed super fund to support our business through this period. This is actually illegal and will have consequences to consider of its own in relation to SMSF rulings and compliance.³⁵
- This business and all assets invested in it are the sole investments my husband and I, outside of our SMSF. We have small debts in a finance loan but are unwilling to extend ourselves further in-case the general economy and live export markets cause worse financial hardships.
- The temporary ban though stressful, we feel will be able to be dealt with and managed. We would hope to sell some cattle this year to obtain income to cover basic costs.
- If the standards of some abattoirs are lifted in Indonesia in regards to animal welfare then the temporary ban has had positive impacts but a total ban or permanent one is completely ridiculous. Especially as many abattoirs in Indonesia always met OIE standards of operation
- A permanent ban, even phasing out over 3 years as Independent, Mr Andrew Wilkie³⁶ is proposing would be catastrophic to our business and personal lives. Our property has no other forms of income. Our asset value base would be nearly zero for a property we paid nearly \$4.5M for in 2008. Prior to the ban in January 2011, a loan review I did valued our combined assets of cattle, land and equipment at over \$6M. With over 98% current equity in our asset base at that time.

3. Other related matters.

- It has been a very hectic period since the live export ban as we have begun mustering. Mustering tends to be our busiest time of year anyway. With the ban we have been spending many hours writing to lobby our intent to have the live trade continued, plus researching information to support that stance. I made a submission to the 'Live export inquiry' along similar lines to this submission. It would have been preferable if the closing dates for the inquiries had been staggered and more time to allow for preparation of the submissions. I was grateful that the closing dates for submission were extended to members of NTCA.

Government handling, Animal activists and Public perceptions of the Live export trade.

- Following the initial days of the airing of the 4 corners program, we expected the governments would only restrict supply of cattle to the abattoirs in Indonesia that weren't slaughtering the animals to OIC standards. This would have been the most sensible and relevant option.
- A limited ban to Indonesian abattoirs that had unacceptable welfare practices would have been agreeable to us. As expected a limited ban

was announced the day after the 4 corners program aired, prohibiting supply of any Australian animals to 12 abattoirs as decreed by the Australian government.³⁷

This would have been the preferred method of restriction of cattle as:

1. The abattoirs in Indonesia that met OIC standards could continue to receive cattle; they were already operating to Australian standards and hadn't abused cattle. They shouldn't have been punished for the actions of other rogue abattoirs that exhibited poor animal welfare standards.
 2. The cattle that we knew were already in export yards could have been moved on to Indonesia. Preventing their welfare to be compromised waiting in yards and incurring massive costs in feed and transport to different sale facilities.³⁸
 3. Allowed the pastoralists to achieve some form of income for the year even if it was at a drastically reduced volume.
 4. Maintained civil relationships between Indonesia and Australia. Relationships that had taken many years to build and maintain.
 5. Would have allowed planning time and consideration of financial alternatives for our businesses.
- We attended an Industry meeting in Katherine on the 6th July 2011.³⁹ This was to express our views on the situation of live export and to workshop ideas and messages which we wanted our industry body of NTCA to use as guides for our direction. Over 100 pastoral properties were represented at that meeting.
 - The very next morning the announcement was made of the Indonesian slaughter trade completely closing with a temporary ban of 6 months by the Agricultural minister Mr Joe Ludwig.⁴⁰ There was no industry consultation as to the effects or ramifications this extreme measure would have on our business, personal lives, assets and animals. I believe no consultation was made with the Indonesian government either.
 - It is well known that the very politicians that lobbied to have the trade closed were in electorates that had higher numbers of people but little economic or understanding of the live export trade.⁴¹
 - In comparison, at a latter date the whole Northern Territory assembly on all sides of parliament were united in their agreement of a motion to have the live export trade re-established.⁴²
 - It is unknown as to the extent that RSPCA and Animals Australia knew or understood the ramifications of halting the live export trade of cattle instantaneously. It is known RSPCA had conducted previous studies in the sheep industry in WA to query that same issue. It is also known from previous literature that Animals Australia in particular wanted a complete shut down of the live trade for all sheep, cattle camels and other livestock.⁴³
 - Questions, accusations and conspiracy theories have abound as to the exact timing of the when the footage was filmed in Indonesia by Animals Australia,⁴⁴ the ways in which it was procured, the timing of its deliverance

to the public on television and the time in-between the actual filming and public release of the animals being mistreated.⁴⁵

- Questions aimed at the RSPCA and AA query their motives of animal welfare in conflict to public notoriety and the aims of their campaigns to improve animal welfare or shut down the live export industry.⁴⁶
- Questions aimed at the government need to be answered
 1. Why as a democratic society a complete industry was shut down as a result of a minorities vocal outrage!
 2. Why the 4 corners program was instantly regarded as factual and true and complete evidence!
 3. Why groups such as RSPCA and Animals Australia receive government backing in effect by way of being classed as non profit, tax free charitable organisations. When their very work is aimed at closing down legitimate income earning tax revenue, employment developing industries, such as the live export trade!
- Publicity campaigns and public protests against the live trade have added to the hysteria and misinformation that has surrounded the whole issue of welfare of animals in Indonesia.⁴⁷

Considerations for the future of the live trade export Industry.

Government rulings.

- 1. The Australian government should not be allowed to announce the total cessation of any industry by way of bans, until after consultation with those industries representatives has occurred.**

The Australian government shut the export livestock industry down based on misguided public perception and limited knowledge of the true facts.

Too much attention was paid to a media source that was suspect in the way it was obtained and questionable motives in its timing of public viewing. No Industry consultation occurred with the people who knew the facts and no government representative made an attempt to contact or view the situation in Indonesia to establish the credentials of the film shown by 4 corners. ABC as a government sponsored broadcasting agency were extremely bias in their portrayal of the live export industry.

- 2. Australian government should take into consideration the recipients of our exports culture, needs and requirements. Government interaction and conversation should have occurred before a complete ban was announced. Indonesia wasn't consulted before the**

ban of exports was announced. Causing serious political damage to our countries relationship with Indonesia.⁴⁸

Indonesia is an extremely important trading partner for various goods that Australia supplies, livestock and wheat being only 2 of those commodities.

Indonesia is also extremely important as a trading partner to act as a buffer zone between countries infected with Foot and Mouth disease, of which Indonesia and Australia don't have. Australia invested \$12M into Indonesia to assist them to prevent this highly contagious disease.

3. If a ban is deemed necessary for an industries operations then consideration must be given to the repercussions of that ban on animal welfare, peoples lives and income and the long term effects such a ban would have.

Pastoralists who relied on the live export for income were given no warning, or alternatives of action for the welfare of their animals and livelihoods.

Our animals still require caring for and mustering even when no income is assured.

Basic finance commitments were unable to be met as the projected income of the business had abruptly been halted.

I believe an 'Act should be passed in our governing legislation similar to that of the 'Animal Enterprise protection Act of 1992' made public law in the United States of America.⁴⁹

Industry bodies.

As an industry representative body MLA I believe have a conflict of interest. They receive a levy paid by producers on the sale of a live animal yet receive no levies from the slaughter processors in Australia. While on the board of directors is a person who represents that industry.⁵⁰

In the future

MLA should be two distinct groups

1. Meat production - all livestock and aquaculture.
2. Meat processing.

Funding received by MLA as a levy is currently divided between

1. MLA – for research and development and advertising of the meat industry.
2. National Residue survey – Residue chemical traceability.
3. Animal Health Australia– support fund incase of catastrophic disease in Australia such as FMD.

It is my personal belief that the levy as currently paid should remain as should the allocation it is given to the three above groups.

What I would like to see changed is the way MLA diversify and account for the spending of their share of the funds.⁵¹

1. Research and development should be very specific and more accountable than present.
2. Advertising – outsourced if possible to groups that specialise in this area.

Thank you for taking to the time to read this submission. I realise it has been a large document.

The live export trade is of great significance to our business and personal lives. Its continued existence is absolutely fundamental to the future financial security of our family.

Yours Sincerely

Jo-Anne Bloomfield.

FOOTNOTES.

¹ **MLA report W.LIV. 0131.**

‘Linking pre export factors to post delivery performance in cattle exported from northern Australia to Indonesia.’

Explanation of summary statistics; *Quotes and information from MLA W.LIV 0131.*

“In Asia, economic development, urbanisation and increasing per capita incomes have been associated with increasing demand for animal protein”

“Importing live cattle as opposed to boxed (chilled or frozen) beef provided advantages in countries where refrigeration and power were limited and unreliable and where cultural practices favoured fresh or wet-market beef over supermarket cuts”

“This has produced a synergistic system where Australia produces high quality, low cost, live cattle and Asian countries (Indonesia in particular) imports these animals into a feedlot and market system capable of fattening the animals at low cost and moving them to wet markets to meet protein demand (Rutherford 1995)”

“The economic downturn in south east Asian countries in 1998 reduced live cattle demand...”

- 2003/2004 Egypt exports fell due to devaluation of Egyptian currency.
- Increased prices and strengthening of Australian dollar considered to contribute to decline in exports to Malaysia and Philippines.
- Cheap south American beef and Indian buffalo meats have competed against Australian exports.
- 2006 exports to Egypt suspended following adverse animal welfare outcomes on disembarkation in Egypt. Exports to Egypt resumed in 2008 following agreement on protocols for handling and slaughter.
-

² **Temple Grandin.**

“Dr. Temple Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Facilities she has designed are located in the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. In North America, almost half of the cattle are handled in a center track restrainer system that she designed for meat plants. Curved chute and race systems she has

designed for cattle are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior have helped many people to reduce stress on their animals during handling.”

<http://grandin.com/temple.html>

Temple Grandin viewed footage shown of the '4 corners program', A bloody business aired 30.05.11. 4 corners used her comments on the program as a "worlds leading authority on cattle behaviour".

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2011/s3230934.htm>

MLA are intending to redesign the kill boxes in Indonesia based on the "Temple Grandin standing slaughter design, which will allow for both stunning and processing in the standing position"

MLA. Message from the chairman – On the ground in Indonesia. 16.06.11.

Indonesia's infrastructure improvements and abattoir design requirements are "A consultation process will be essential and will need to include welfare groups with recommendation to seek Temple's support of the design meets local Halal requirements. Based on initial enquiries we believe it will meet local requirements"

Adam Hill. CEO of NTLEA. Email forwarded. 14.06.11.

- ³ Draft copy of the Exporter Controlled supply chain Traceability and Assurance system** put together by the Industry government working group. Finalised 24.06.11

NTCA. Live export Update. 24.06.11. Luke Bowen

- ⁴ Lack of correct information in regards to Agriculture by the general public.**

"In Australia, 24% of people are born overseas, 75% of people are urban Australians who know little or nothing about farming, and 64% of people aged under 65 have never been on a farm"

Feedback magazine. 'Bang for the buck' August 2009.

- ⁵ Shipping statistics and mortality rates** are available on livecorp website.

http://www.livecorp.com.au/Facts_and_Stats/Statistics?Cattle.aspx

- ⁶ MLA. Spent \$4M in past ten years in Indonesia on training and Infrastructure.**

<http://www.mla.com.au/About-the-red-meat-industry/Livestock-exports/Animal-welfare-in-Indonesia/Important-facts-about-live-exports-to-Indonesia>

- ⁷ Australian government, MLA's assistance in animal welfare in Indonesia**

"The industry has spent over \$4M over the past ten years in infrastructure and training to achieve animal welfare improvements" in Indonesia. MLA

MLA report. W.LIV.0371. End dated 30.06.09. "...designs of restraining box have been developed..."

MLA report. LIVE.325. End date 14.12.06. "...constantly improves animal welfare consistent with best practice..." and "...embraces best practice and long term profitability..."

<http://www.mla.com.au/About-the-red-meat-industry/About-MLA/Company-overview>. 30.06.11

Independent study into Animal welfare in Indonesia from point of arrival from Australia to slaughter. Caple.McGowen.Cusack 2009-10.

http://www.daff.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf-file/0005/1886477/indonesia.pdf.

Regional Animal welfare strategy :Asia, the far east and Ocenia. DAFF.
Initiated in 2005. The OIE developed the strategy as an integrated planning approach to animal welfare.

http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/regional_animal-welfare-strategy

“The toal ban would throw away the benefits of 15 years of hard work by the Australian beef industry. During that tim, world class shipping standards and feedlots had been established at many Indonesian abattoirs”.

Stock Journal. Mary Jo Fisher . Liberal Senator ‘Export ban shocks cattle industry’ 09.06.11.

⁸ MLA publications

Website - <http://www.mla.com.au>

Written publications and research. Feedback magazine, Frontier magazine,

⁹ Reports of improvements in Indonesia of animal welfare

MLA report. W.LIV 0351. end date. 30.10.09. “In collaboration with APFINDO to assess solutions to the problem of rising feed commodity prices.....”

www.mla.com.au

¹⁰ Animals Australia footage honesty questioned.

“MLA live-export manager Michael Finucan said the Animals Australia footage showed just four abattoirs, not 11 as claimed in other media reports. He said three of those abattoirs were small operators, which averaged between five and 10 kills a night. We’re working with about 100 abattoirs across Indonesia, and while we’ve been in those premises, we haven’t seen that level of appalling cruelty” Mr Finucan said.”The four abattoirs that were shown in the footage were backblock operators. We work much more closely as a matter of priority with the abattoirs that are processing much larger numbers of Australian cattle”.

QLD Country life. Brad Cooper. ‘Live-ex on a knife edge’ 02.06.11

¹¹ Veganism –

Is the personal practice of eliminating the use animal products.

Ethical vegans reject the commodity status of animals and the use of animal products for any purpose, while Dietary vegans or strict vegans eliminate them from their diet only.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vegan>.

First consideration of Veganism encouraged as a protest against animal farming .

*“Helping animals doesn't have to be complicated, time-consuming, or even expensive. It's about being informed and making **simple, every-day choices** that can free animals from the suffering and abuse that most people don't stop to think about.”*

http://www.animalsaustralia.org/take_action/compassionate_living.php

¹² Australia is the only country to invest in another countries animal welfare practices”

“Australia is the only country in the world that invests in improving animal welfare in overseas markets”

<http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/livestock/shepp/live-exports-image-can't-get-a-break>

“Stopping our livestock from being exported will not reduce the global incidence of animal cruelty – it will however remove the one country that is investing to create more humane livestock systems”

David Crombie. Former MLA chair. 23.06.11.

“No other nation has the same commitment to animal welfare as Australia and no other country invests in animal welfare like we do”

Livecorp, newsletter. CEO Cameron Hall. 27.05.11.

“Why have we cut their supplies of quality cattle, thereby removing any continuing incentive to adhere to such humane practices”

Northern Territory News. ‘Religious’. Senator Nigel Scullion. 11.06.11

¹³ Recognition by MLA of problems of animal welfare in importing countries.

“In 2000, the live export industry identified improving the traditional pre-slaughter and slaughter handling of imported Australian cattle in Asia and the Middle East to be a priority. In the Asian market place Australian imported cattle have historically been discounted in the market. This has largely been due to the suboptimal slaughter techniques resulting in dark cutting meat and a reduced shelf life. The additional stress encountered in slaughtering Australian cattle without adequate restraint often results in a lowering of muscle glycogen and an elevated pH. By improving animal welfare during pre-slaughter and at slaughter, meat quality is improved, operator safety is enhanced and the efficiency of processing is superior”

MLA report. LIVE.309. Developing an Improved Pre-slaughter restraining box for cattle.

¹⁴ MLA no legal jurisdiction in Indonesia

“But the fact remains, the livestock industry and MLA do not have the power to enforce animal welfare standards in any country but rather work with the supply chain to make improvements”

<http://www.mla.com.au/About-the-red-meat-industry/About-MLA/Company-overview>. 26.06.11

¹⁵ Halal and Kosher abattoirs in Australia.

“The inability to deliver on mandated stunning at present and the unwillingness of the Indonesian Government to accept something that is not mandated in Australia. There are abattoirs in Australia that are permitted to conduct Halal and Kosher slaughter without prior stunning”

NTCA. Luke Bowen. Live export update 24.06.11.

¹⁶ MLA role.

“To deliver world-class services and solutions in partnership with industry and government” MLA mission statement.

<http://www.mla.com.au/About-the-red-meat-industry/About-MLA/Company-overview>. 30.06.11.

¹⁷ Plans for Abattoir near Darwin.

“Australian Agriculturehas turned its attention to fast tracking plans to build its own abattoir”.

“The abattoir, which may now be bigger than originally planned, is due to be commissioned in the second half of next year”

Nth QLD register. ‘Industry turns to planning’. 23.06.11.

“The construction of a new abattoir will provide a necessary market, in addition to the livestock trade. It is not going to resolve the issue. It is impossible to absorb 300000 cattle a year for an abattoir in the Northern Territory, or even if you had more in Northern Australia”

Mr Kon Vatskalis (Northern Territory Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources minister) speaking to the motion – Live cattle exports to Indonesia. Tabled to NT parliament 15.06.11.

18 Land Valuations in NT.

“Two cattle station auctions may be cancelled and potential buyers have walked away from another property sale following live cattle export ban”

Northern Territory News. ‘Alarm bells as cattle station auctions axed’. Coner Byrne. 11.06.11

19 No live export will negatively affect livestock prices in Australia.

“The demand from overseas props up the price of beef in Australia by as much as 10c/kg. If the price of Australian beef falls by that amount as more cattle flood the domestic market producers could lose up to \$250M”

QLD Country Life. Tom Allard. ‘Ban doomed to fail’ 02.06.11.

“...turning 500000 head back into the domestic market and causing a potential market decrease of up to 30 percent”

QLD Country Life. Stan Wallace. ‘Live Ex backlash’ 02.06.11.

“In financial terms, according to figures we have run we could see 9 cents a kilogram come off the price of every kilogram of beef every producer sells in Australia and in many of the northern and north west regions of Australia, we would see complete business operations close if it goes on”

Stock Journal. Export ban. Catherine Miller. 09.06.11.

20 Direct employment by the live export trade.

“The industry directly provides in excess of 1800 jobs, mainly in rural areas of the NT”

“The pastoral industry is the NT’s third largest GDP earner, accounting for more than 50% of primary production in the NT and generating over \$400 million in direct income”

NTCA. Media release. ‘Agriculture teeters on threshold’. 02.04.11.

21 Environmental impact of no live export.

Explanation: the cattle destined for live export at less than 350kg are too small to be supplied to abattoirs at that weight. Unless other sources of sale avenues are found they will be held on properties to continue to grow. This could lead to overstocking of land and degradation due to grazing pressure.

22 Indonesian weight restrictions of 350kg.

Explanation; In an effort to promote industry and employment in its own country, Indonesia placed a limit of maximum 350kg per beast to be imported. The animal once arrived in Indonesia is fed for 90 days and then slaughtered. This process is reported to provide 1000000 jobs to people in Indonesia.

23 4 corners program

ABC, Four Corners ‘A bloody business’ aired 30.05.11.

“Bloody footage of the atrocious mistreatment of Australian cattle in 12 abattoirs”. “It proclaimed that the evil uncovered by Lyn White of Animals Australia was truly representative of Indonesian slaughter practices”

<http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/livestock/cattle/4-corners-fallout-wrecking-live-export-industry>.

24 OIE

World organisation for Animal Health.

Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Chapter 7.1 Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.

Chapter 7.5. Slaughter for animals.

http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.7.1.htm

“Australia is not in a position to mandate a standard to the Indonesian Government therefore OIE (World Animal Health Organisation) standard for animal slaughter is currently in place and accepted. Stunning is not a requirement of this standard”

NTCA. Luke Bowen. Live export update 24.06.11.

25 Abattoirs operating to Australian standards or OIE before 4 corners program,

“...25 accredited Indonesian processing facilities currently meeting OIE”. “The highest grade included 5 modern facilities that were using stunning effectively and consistently applying appropriate animal welfare standards”

Nth QLD Register. ‘Aust. Fast to act on animal welfare issue’. 09.06.11.

26 Temporary total ban on exports of live cattle intended for slaughter to Indonesia.

“MLA and industry body Livecorp announced last week they were suspending the supply of cattle to three Indonesian slaughterhouses after seeing footage of abattoirs provided by 4 corners”

“The government has stopped sending cattle to 11 Indonesian abattoirs identified in the four corners investigation”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/31/3232084.htm>

27 No alternative sale outlets for cattle intended for live export.

“Much of the country from Kununurra to the Barclay Tableland is suitable only for cattle grazing. So with virtually no processing facilities from Townsville right around to Perth, there are no options – its export or close down”

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2010/s3223504.htm>

“The Top End of Australia is predominantly mineral deficient breeding country, incapable of supplying significant numbers of finished cattle to a domestic abattoir. A domestic abattoir in the NT will also face significant issues in sourcing cattle through the extended wet seasons. Using our cost structure to grow, slaughter, pack export and sell; Australian beef would be unaffordable to the vast number of Indonesians. Even if they had distribution and refrigeration infrastructure to handle frozen beef.”

NTCA. Information pamphlet. Support Live export – Ban animal cruelty. Email 19.06.11.

“There is no assurance that Indonesian boxed beef exports would increase as cultural preference for fresh meat in the wet market indicates Indonesia would respond by sourcing cattle from other regions”

QLD country life. Indonesian response must be balanced. Grant Maudsley. 09.06.11.

28 Pastoralists reliant on the live trade export.

"If we were to exit the market completely, however this would penalise operators doing the right thing, remove the opportunity for future improvements and put at risk the long-term future of cattle production in northern Australia".

QLD Country life. 'Why cattle exports to Indonesia must go on'. Greg Brown. 09.06.11.

"The pastoral industry is in the top 3 economic drivers in the Northern Territory". Said Mr Kenny.

NTCA. Media release. 'Live cattle exports key to regional development'. 31.03.04.

29 Mustering costs

Explanation: These are actual costs incurred to muster to gather sale cattle and treat herd for inoculants and parasitic control on Hodgson river station.

Figures for 2009/2010

Fodder	\$27384
Supplement	\$28914
Fuel – Av-gas	\$4268
Inoculations	\$17953
Helicopter hire	\$24150
Wages	\$36893

30 Indonesian permits

"Indonesia has announced the release of import permits allowing 180000 head of cattle to come from Australia after Canberra's suspension of the live trade was lifted".

The Australian. 'Indonesia approves permits for Australian cattle' 08.07.11.

31 Alice Springs Abattoir.

Explanation - Wambodin abattoir is located north of Alice Springs. It is a small capacity abattoir.

32 Animal welfare on long road trips.

MLA report. AHW.126 End date 14.09.06. "Search and review the scientific literature pertaining to land transport and illustrate how this research as well as industry knowledge and experiences has helped to arrive at current land transport best practices in Australia.

www.mla.com.au

33 RSPCA, Animals Australia, Get Up calling for all live export ban

RSPCA. Website called 'Ban live export'.

Slogan "If you care about animals, help us to end the cruellest trade in Australian history..."

<http://www.banliveexport.com>

Animals Australia. Petition. 'Calling for an end to live animal export'.

<http://www.animalsaustralia.org>

34 Government supports announced

\$3M Income support payment announced 27.06.11

\$30M business Business assistance payment announced 05.07.11.

<http://www.liveexports.gov.au/assistance>

35 SMSF compliance

Sole purpose test of a Self managed superannuation fund is that the super fund monies are for one core purpose. "As payment or benefit on and after retirement age, or on death". To withdraw money held in a SMSF early to use for personal benefit before retirement is

deemed to be breaking this rule and forfeits the compliance of the trust deed of the fund. Possibly incurring massive fines and loss of compliance fund taxation benefits.

DIY Super for Dummies. Trish Power. Chapter 11: Do the right thing, compliance.

³⁶ **Mr Andrew Wilkie. Ban live export**

1. Live export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011. Introduced by Independents Andrew Wilkie and Nick Xenophen. This bill aimed to restrict live export of slaughter animals and phase out to finish in 2014. presented to parliament 20.06.11
2. Live animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 Introduced by Greens MP Adam Bandt. This bill aimed to ban live export of slaughter animals. Presented to parliament 20.06.11

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rat_ctte/live_export_bills_2011/index.htm

³⁷ **Initial partial ban of slaughter animals to Indonesia**

Explanation : Following the airing of 'A bloody business' on 4 corners ABC on 30th May 2011. A ban was placed by MLA /Livecorp on four abattoirs. Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig extended this to 12 abattoirs to then call a Total ban on the export of slaughter animals to Indonesia on 7th June 2011.

³⁸ **Animal welfare of stranded animals**

"On Monday (05.06.11) a shipment of Australian cattle bound for Indonesia was prevented from loading at Port Hedland in Northern WA.."

"AQIS officials prevented about 2000 head of cattle from boarding the ship"

QLD Country Life. 'North hung out to dry'. Colin Bettles and Tyson Cattle. 09.06.11.

"Mr Hartley said that of the estimated 12000 cattle that were stranded in holding yards near Darwin when the June 7 ban was announced. 4500 cattle remained."

<http://www.beefcentral.com/p/news/article/314>. 08.07.11.

³⁹ **Industry Meeting 07.06.11**

Explanation: NTCA. (Northern Territory Cattleman's association) Katherine Live export meeting 7th June 2011.

⁴⁰ **Total ban on live exports of slaughter cattle to Indonesia**

Explanation: Mr Joe Ludwig, Minister of Australian agriculture, issued an order of suspension of the exporting of all cattle intended for slaughter to Indonesia, effective for 6 months. Beginning 07.06.11.

Email Adam Hill CEO NTLEA. (Northern Territory Live Export Association) 14.06.11.

⁴¹ **Politicians lobbying for closure of live export**

"Outspoken Labour backbenchers Kelvin Thompson, Wills (Victoria), Janelle Saffin, Page (NSW) and Melissa Parke, Fremantle(WA) are screaming for the live export trade's destruction and placing extreme pressure on their embattled party to cave into the burgeoning demands of animal welfare groups". "But the Labour trio are exposed to zero percentage of the direct live cattle export in their specific electorates".

"Many have links to meat industry unions and together, they command a majority in the Labour caucus

<http://fw.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general>. 16.06.11.

⁴² **NT assembly bi partisan motion**

Debates – Eleventh Assembly. First session 14.06.11. Parliamentary record #20. Topic Motion. Subject Motion – Live cattle exports to Indonesia – Motion agreed to. Member Mr Henderson. Other speakers. Mr Mills, Mr Vatskalis, Ms Purick, Mr Wood.

⁴³ **Animal protection organisation views of stopping live export**

“Every animal protection organisation in the world opposes live animal export on the basis of unacceptable cruelty” .Animals Australia.

“The live cattle trade with Indonesia must be halted immediately and the Australian Government must announce an end date for live animal exports to all other countries” . Animals Australia.

<http://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/public-consultations-live-export-inquiries.php>

44 Filming by Animals Australia

“Four corners began its investigation for this program in April”.

Sarah Ferguson. 4 corners. 22.06.11.

45 Viewing of 4 corners footage.

Explanation : ABC 4 corners aired the program ‘A bloody business’ 30.05.11.

46 Questionable motives of animal welfare groups

VOICELESS, an organisation that proclaims “animal protection, the next great social justice movement”, “creates and fosters networks of leading lawyers, politicians and academics to influence law and public policy” Councillor for Voiceless – Dr Ken Henry also currently part time advisor to Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Voiceless gave out \$55000 in grants since 2004 to various groups committed to ending the live export trade.

QLD Country life. Labor link to anti-export group. Pg 11.16.06.11.

47 Public misconceptions of live trade export.

1. Stopping the live trade export of animals will stop the cruelty occurring in the imported country.

“Australia’s absence won’t stop the inhumane killing. But worse, the animal mistreatment would be exacerbated because Australia would no longer be there to provide direct, hands on training and support at the abattoirs”

Stock Journal. Viewpoint. “High moral ground offers no protection for beef”. Colin Bettles. 02.06.11.

“But they- and all those rushing to ban the trade to Indonesia- need to stop and reflect whether they only care about the welfare of Australian cattle or whether all cattle deserve better”

The Land. Editor. ‘Crushing beef blow on many fronts’ 02.06.11.

“Mr Truss said the Australian live export industry had worked with the federal government and abattoir operators in Indonesia over time, as it did in other markets, to improve animal welfare standards. But banning the trade altogether would only see those standards regress, he said. We are in fact the only country in the world that is putting this effort into helping to ensure that our customers use the very best possible practices”

QLD Country life. Colin Bettles. ‘Industry in dire need of solution’ 02.06.11.

“We certainly can’t change it if we have no relationship with the system and have no place in it”

Katherine Times. Rohan Sullivan ‘Cattle trade under fire’ Editor. 08.06.11.

“If live exports to Indonesia are closed, families will be bankrupted and for what purpose? It won’t make the slightest bit of difference being slaughtered in Indonesia” Mr Sullivan said.

Katherine Times.' Cattle ban will hurt town'. Tegan Forder. 15.06.11

2. "What of the live export Industry claim that live animals are required in importing countries due to inadequate refrigeration" Animals Australia question on document Live animal export – indefensible.

<http://www.liveexport-indenfensible.com/facts/issues.php>.

"The predominance of people in rural Indonesia, with only 44% of the 245 million population living in urban areas (89% in Australia)"

"With refrigeration scarce in Indonesia, and a huge volume of meat marketed in 'wet' markets virtually by the roadside (under conditions that would be condemned in Australia), this has favoured exports of live animals"

QLD Countrylife.'Live trade has a long history' Trevor Johnston – retired live export communication consultant. 09.06.11

3. Australian producers who currently supply the live export trade can easily diversify into the boxed meat trade in Australia.

"Indonesia will demand live animals whether we are providing them or not."

QLD Country life. 'Why cattle exports to Indonesia must go on' Greg Brown. 09.06.11.

⁴⁸ Australian and Indonesian trade relations.

"Indonesia's Agricultural minister Suswano last month criticised Australia's handling of the matter, saying he had not been informed of the decision before the suspension was announced". The Australian 'Indonesia approves permits for Australian cattle'. 08.07.11.

⁴⁹ Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992.

USA public law 102-346, 26.08.1992.

102nd Congress – An Act to protect animal enterprises.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/legislat/pl102346.htm>

⁵⁰ MLA director representing meat processing

Mr Iain Mars – Director BSc (Economics) currently on the board of Directors of MLA. Mr Mars is also CEO and director of Swift Australia. Company that owns abattoirs in Australia.

⁵¹ Accountability of funds received by MLA

"The fact that only 580 of 15% of the 4000 projects are listed and that only 260 or 6% of projects can be located and have completed report is testimony to the failure of this program"

Australian beef producers journal. 'Meat and livestock Australia loses \$650 million worth of research and development projects.'. pg 12. Spring/Summer 2010.