



15th July 2011

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Senate Inquiry into Animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets

The World Society for the Protection for Animals (WSPA) is opposed to animals being transported unnecessarily past the nearest abattoir. Live animal export causes unavoidable suffering during transport and handling, and the inhumane deaths of tens of thousands of animals in importing countries every year. Australia exports animals to countries that do not meeting World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines for slaughter and that do not have adequate and/or enforced animal protection legislation. This results in Australian animals being handled, transported and slaughtered in ways that fall far short of the expectations of the Australian public and that would be illegal here.

In September 2009, WSPA commissioned economic analysts, ACIL Tasman, to produce an economic report into the Australian live sheep and sheep meat trade. The report found that a sheep processed in Australia is worth 20% more to our economy than one processed overseas.

Overall, live exports cost Australia \$1.5 billion in lost GDP, \$270 million in lost household income and around 10,500 jobs, according to an assessment by SG Heilbron in the report "The Future of the Queensland Beef Industry and the Impact of Live Cattle Exports, 2010.

In light of significant and serious animal welfare concerns, combined with the fact that ending live exports would have a significant benefit for the local economy and jobs, WSPA is calling for a five year phase out of all live animal exports for slaughter.

Yours sincerely

Jessica Borg
Campaign Manager
World Society for the Protection of Animals

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