

15th June 2011

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make a submission to the senate if possible. I am unsure if I have reached the correct area to do this, but I am keen to voice my opinion. I have never in my life been forced to do something like this, but my conscience would not let me be idle this time. Please ban the live export trade. It is time for this country to make a stand for decency.

I am appalled at the decision of our prime minister to about face so quickly, on the issue of live exports. Nothing at all has changed during this process, so how has this change been made without it?

As a tax payer in this country, I again fail to see how the out spoken minority gets to over rule the patient but quiet, majority of this country. I do feel remorse for those farmers effected by the ban, however, I trust in the nature of these individuals, to make a call in saying, that I am sure if they also knew the fate their stock were facing, they also would be distressed. It comes down to a right or wrong and it is wrong, so don't do it. The MLA should be compensating these farmers, as it was the gross negligence of this organisation that has added to their plight.

I am very disappointed also that we again pander to the wants of another country, that in 18 years, showed no intention of respecting our countries standards, values or morals. We have killed our stock in our own abattoirs by the Halal method, to accommodate the cultural requirements of our clients, so why can this not be started again? Many abattoir workers lost their jobs through the start of this gruesome live trade. So why don't we build some more of these facilities up North and some feed lots to deal with our own stock. This would create jobs for our country and stop this unnecessary cruel trade.

I am a country girl, with family members and friends that are farmers, butchers and stock agents, and none of these people want this barbaric trade to continue. The most common response, after the horror of seeing this on our TV was, ban it and deal with our own stock here. The other was, let us set up our own abattoirs in their country but have our people dealing with the killing and moving of the stock. We can then enforce the stunning of these poor animals before the slitting of their throats.

However I personally want a ban to this horrific trade. The stock are terrified during the cramped sea voyage, and then subjected to an unthinkable cruelty by a people that are well known for their lack of animal welfare and are culturally immune to the suffering of these vulnerable beasts.

It is time for Australia to get a spine, a conscience and a heart. Stop this trade now. Give Australians back their dignity. No other civilised country is involved in this cruel trade, and we should not be either. If we cease this type of trade, they will accept the chilled meat, as other countries already do. If not, that is how it is. We need to stand by our own values and standards. We have laws to prevent animals being subjected to such ill treatment here, so how can we turn a blind eye to this, when we know it is happening?

Stop the live trade now.

Mrs Monique & Mr Robert McGregor
(Dental assistant & Optometrist)