

Honorable Senators,

I wish to submit my support for a ban on the sending live cattle from Australia overseas for slaughter.

The methods used in slaughtering cattle cannot be overseen from Australian shores which creates doubt as to the use of stun-guns prior to slaughter.

Pre the recent ban on the shipment of cattle to Indonesia there was little, if any, surveillance on the methods used for slaughter in Indonesia when Australian cattle were supposed to be overseen through the Meat and Livestock Industry Company. If this Industry had done everything it could to have brought Indonesian Abattoirs to the best possible practice the Four Corners footage would most likely have been different, and animal welfare agencies -- with the support of thousands of Australians -- would have been accepting of such efforts; but still working to stop live cattle (and sheep) exports from Australia.

I submit that the Live Animal Export industry from Australia will continually cause grave concern to all thinking and humane Australians as years pass and standards lapse.

Pastoralists, 'Top End' farmers and workers connected with animal husbandry must take note that a vast number of cattle and sheep bred far exceed the ability of Australia to process herds without the need to send animals off shore

I remain,
Your obedient servant,
Mary Thompkins