

## SUBMISSION

I make this submission in support of the Australian live export industry for consideration in the 'Animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets' Senate Inquiry being conducted by the Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee.

I refer directly to the Terms of Reference that the Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee will inquire and report on and my opinion in relation to each Term of Reference is as follows:-

**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;
- ii) ongoing monitoring of the subscription to, and practise of, animal welfare standards in all live export market countries;
- iii) actions to improve animal welfare outcomes in all other live export market countries and the evidence base for these actions.

No rational Australian condones animal cruelty, however we are working in a market that upholds a religious belief that differs so drastically from our own. It is my understanding that over the last decade MLA (Meat Livestock Australia) and various corporations, graziers, individuals and government agencies have worked closely with the Indonesian Government including their abattoirs and organisations to continuously improve the killing processes of Australian beef on foreign soil. This has seen millions of Australian Dollars spent on an export industry that was one of our closest trading partners.

- b) The extent of knowledge of animal welfare practices in Australia's live export markets including:
  - i) formal and informal monitoring and reporting structures;
  - ii) formal and informal processes for reporting and addressing poor animal welfare practices.

I am led to believe that in Indonesia there are a huge number of abattoirs working across many standards with approx. 120 abattoirs that are operating at international standards, with 25 abattoirs actually qualified to our higher Australian standards. Our standards being higher than the international standards, however if Australia is not allowed to continue to interact with Indonesian abattoirs then we will not be able to continually assist to improve these practices. What should be remembered is that we are working in a foreign country educating individuals whose religious beliefs must be upheld.

**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.

The hasty decision to ban live exports has an immediate and adverse flow on effect that will have grave consequences which will affect hundreds of thousands of Australians, causing financial devastation to so many industries. Northern Australia will be the tip of the iceberg, the graziers will not survive, banks will not be able to support or provide assistance to an industry that is incapable of maintaining a market to sell their product too. This will then destroy those that the graziers have financially supported down the production chain – their staff, transport companies, road side cafes, fuel outlets, tyre companies, mechanics, electricians, etc.

**3. Other related matters.**

What will happen to the 800,000 odd animals that were due to be exported – this is the dry season there is not enough grass (feed) to be able to continue feeding these animals and they are now over the required 90kg weight preset by the Indonesian Government – they will need to be destroyed – how will the majority of ordinary Australians react when they see fields of dead carcasses?

How will the remainder of our overseas trading partners view this labour/green Australian government, it is my belief that they will be hesitant in trusting the word of those in power.

Signed:	Julie Hardaker (Cooke)
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Date:	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2011