

To whom it may concern

I am writing to urge you to seriously consider ending the live export trade of Australian livestock to countries with appalling animal welfare standards. As an Australian citizen I find it disturbing that more has not been done to end this trade and to ensure that Australian animals are not subjected to such an intolerable level of cruelty that would be completely illegal if it occurred on our shores.

I was overwhelmed with pride and joy for my country when the Government halted the trade to Indonesia and felt that this was a significant step to take. It proved that they were paying attention to the demands of over 250 000 citizens. However my joy was shortlived, as disappointingly, this gruesome trade was allowed to resume. I was disappointed enough to find that it had resumed at all, but when I found out that it had resumed before any adequate safeguards could be put in place, my disappointment turned to outrage. It brought tears to my eyes to see that the Government had settled for sub-par standards which don't even require stunning before the animals are slaughtered. How the people in power can sit by and tolerate such cruelty is beyond me.

I do not trust the industry's claims that they have the interests of the animals in mind at all. The MLA has known of this animal abuse for years and have continued to supply livestock to these countries knowing full well what torment awaited them. They were even responsible for supplying the restraint boxes, which only increases the animals suffering and were responsible for some of the greatest animal abuse that the Animals Australia investigation unmasked. I cannot believe that the industry will now ensure that the animals are treated well during every step of the supply chain. This whole debacle has made it exceedingly clear to me that the only thing the industry regards as paramount is money.

I believe the only way to move forward from this national embarrassment is to ban the trade altogether, and set a leading example for the rest of the World to follow.

Also, I have heard a lot of misinformation regarding the way that farmers will suffer should the trade be banned. However, I would like to point out the following facts: "numerous economic reports have confirmed that live exports are undermining Australia's meat processing industry - an industry five times more lucrative than live exports. ACIL Tasman's reviews into the live sheep trade found that phasing out live sheep exports would have minimal impact on farmers and would in fact reap greater benefits for farmers and the economy through increased processing in Australia. Reports into the impact of live cattle exports on Queensland's beef industry have found that live exports are directly competing with the beef processing sector to the point of threatening its future viability."

If the cruelty behind any other trade or profession was so publicly and awfully exposed, the trade would be shut down and workers would be compensated and forced to find employment elsewhere. This is a common way that the economy adjusts. I do not see why meat farmers should get any special treatment that would not be available to other citizens.

Furthermore, there have been many meat farmers who have expressed outrage at the way the cattle have been treated overseas and have vowed to take no part in live exports anymore. Surely this is indicative of the severity of the the abuse and that it is completely intolerable.

I trust that you take what I have said into account, and know that I speak on behalf of the

hundreds of thousands of compassionate civilians, and on behalf of the millions of animals who are sent to such a fate each year, as they are unable to be heard if people such as myself do not speak for them.

Regards,
Ella McNamara