

To Whom It May Concern:

I Request that the government reinstate the ban of live trade to Indonesia to prevent continued inhumane treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia.

I Support the passage of the Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No.2] and the Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2] which seek an end date for all live animal exports within 3 years.

In the interim years, I would like the Australian Government together with industry to implement the highest standards of animal welfare, which are confirmed to go beyond those set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

It has come to my attention through Humane Society International that a world leading expert in animal behaviour, Professor Temple Grandin, has reported that research agrees that throat-cutting without stunning does not induce instantaneous unconsciousness. Ritual slaughter remains to submit animals to some level of cruelty and is inhumane. **If the government maintains live cattle export, they must include a guarantee that slaughter without stunning (known in most cases as ritual (halal or kosher slaughter) will *not* occur.**

The recent concern about live export, which is a federal animal welfare responsibility, highlights the need for a national agency to address animal welfare issues. In light of the recent situation of the treatment of Australian cattle exported to Indonesia, and the recent reporting of the lack of credible research into slaughter of such cattle in Indonesia, it is clear that Australia needs a Non-Departmental Public Body to review and recommend advice on animal welfare matters. I support the establishment of an Australian Animal Welfare Council to provide accurate independent advice on animal welfare matters.

Regards,

Rochelle Downing