

15 July 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Submission to the Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets

It is unacceptable that the Australian government continues to allow the live animal export trade to continue after all the evidence that has been provided time and again that this is a cruel trade.

The 1985 Senate inquiry recommended that the government "promote and encourage the expansion of the refrigerated sheep meat trade to the Middle East and other countries, with the aim of eventually substituting it for the live sheep trade". It is rather unbelievable to think that this recommendation has been ignored, as has other recommendations that have come out of further inquiries.

Besides the terrible cruelty, the live animal trade is killing off our meat processing industry here in Australia, processing of animals here in Australia is detrimental to the health of our economy.

Animal welfare is not a compromise, these animals are more than just a commodity that can be tossed around, they have feelings and are sensitive to changed conditions which impacts on their welfare. The shipping conditions these animals have to endure are horrendous their fate at the other end makes me sick to the stomach.

Our animals' welfare cannot be ensured once they leave for other countries, we have seen so much evidence that the suffering these animals endure in other countries is atrocious. They are unable to even meet the absolute minimum standards set by the World Health Organisation.

With all the evidence before us, I believe the only right thing to do is put an end to this ugly trade and reinstate the industry here.

Yours sincerely

Debra Henderson