

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to request that reinstate the ban of the live trade to Indonesia to prevent continued inhumane treatment of Australian Cattle in Indonesia.

Please 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 seeks an end date for all live animal exports within three years.

In the interim years, I recommend the Australian Government together with industry must implement the highest standards of animal welfare, which are confirmed to go beyond those set by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

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) 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 report 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 recommend the establishment of an Australian Animal Welfare Council to provide accurate independent advice on animal welfare matters.

Regards,

Carol Kenneally