

15th July 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned Australian citizen in regards to the independent live export industry review.

Recently, we have seen graphic footage that exposed shocking and systematic animal cruelty within the live export industry. This cruelty has been well documented over many years and consistently confirms that animals sent overseas (including Indonesia and the Middle East) are routinely subjected to barbaric treatment and unforgivable cruelty.

I understand that Meat & Livestock Australia has attempted to 'improve' animal welfare in the live export industry and to ensure that cruel methods are not utilized in overseas abattoirs. However, I think anyone who witnessed the disturbing footage shown on documentaries such as 'Four Corners' would agree that the MLA has unequivocally failed in their task to improve animal welfare.

This industry has had ample opportunity to demonstrate adequate protection of animals exported from Australia and now enough is enough.

I would like to put forward the argument that there is **NO** ethical or humane way to continue this trade in live animals. It is inherently cruel to transport animals over long distances and send them to countries that have no animal welfare laws.

Essentially, we can never be in control of the way animals are treated once they have left Australian shores and there is no way of guaranteeing that animal welfare standards are adhered to, particularly in developing countries with no animal welfare laws.

I believe the only ethical and progressive way forward is to ban all live exports completely. This issue has shamed our nation for long enough and we need to follow the courageous example of New Zealand, who banned live exports in 2003.

I urge you to please take a compassionate stand and to support a complete ban on live export.

Yours sincerely,

Renate Homburg.