

Iris Toren BSc UNSW

13 July 2011

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

Dear Committee members,

Re: Export of live animals for slaughter

My family and I write to urge you to do everything in your power to bring an end to the suffering of Australian animals exported live for slaughter in Asia and the Middle East.

As you know, numerous investigations have exposed the brutal and ethically indefensible treatment of Australian animals in Asia and the Middle East. The recent uncovering of the cruelty inflicted on Australian cattle in Indonesia further evidences the complete failure of the live export industry to care about the treatment of our animals overseas. Regardless of any undertakings that the industry may make, the only appropriate course of action now is to ban this trade and prevent any more animals suffering in this horrendous way in the future. It is not only the brutal treatment these innocent and defenseless creatures must suffer once they arrive at their final destination, if they survive the journey, but the unimaginable horror of the journey itself. Australia has a moral duty to protect its animals.

As you would be aware, independent economic reports by ACIL Tasman predict positive benefits to our economy from an end to the live trade.

Australia must no longer turn a blind eye or be complicit in animal abuse. We implore you to imagine what these innocent and intelligent creatures are enduring. We hope and pray that through your Inquiry and recommendations, Australia will be able to establish itself as a compassionate and ethical society in the international community. As Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way it treats its animals."

You have the support of the Australian public behind you,

Yours sincerely,

Iris Toren