

I urge the Inquiry to examine that banning the live animal export trade be considered a priority. This matter cannot be examined solely on economic grounds. Indeed, it must be considered in isolation of economic factors. This is a moral and ethical issue. I submit my views below as a concerned Australian.

I am shocked and appalled at the animal cruelty of the barbaric practices of live export of animals from Australia to destinations such as Indonesia and the Middle East. Like many Australians I cannot forget the horrific images of cruelty. A farmer in Australia has an obligation and responsibility not to subject his animals to pain and suffering. In Australia, within the confines of the law, where a farmer sells his animals, the treatment of those animals up to the point of slaughter is subject to the laws that protect the welfare of the animal. Notwithstanding that further continual improvements in animal welfare laws in Australia are needed, all involved such as transporters, stockmen, animal nutritionists, handlers, and abattoir workers all have the same obligation and responsibility as the farmer to care for the animals to prevent pain and suffering. To name one particular requirement, stunning standing slaughter is a mandatory requirement to prevent pain and suffering. Yet an animal sent via the live animal export trade to a foreign country is not protected in the same way. Why should this situation be considered acceptable? Ignoring animal welfare is not acceptable and any industry that ignores animal welfare must be stopped. Therefore, the banning of the live export of animals is necessary because the cruelty to animals cannot be prevented. Where there is no enforceable legislation, where there is no will by the people, where there is no infrastructure, where there is no capacity to put in place the requirements to protect animal welfare at every stage of the live export of animals, then it is wrong to send animals via live animal export trade to any country. This is not an economic issue, this is a moral and ethical issue. Nothing can justify the cruelty to animals.

Moreover, I am so thoroughly disgusted that the Australian live export industry that ought to have known of the widespread cruelty has claimed it didn't know anything. Is it not the duty, obligation and responsibility of an industry to know what is happening within its own industry? Is this utter incompetence, negligence, callously turning a blind eye, or much, much worse, a complete coverup? Either way, the Independent Farmer Review / Senate Inquiry that are now being undertaken need to get to the very bottom of this scandal. The operations at each and every stage of live export all contribute to cruelty and animal abuse - from the farmer's gate, transport, export, sea transport, import, feedlots, onselling of livestock, through to all abattoirs and slaughterhouses (eg: 700 abattoirs and slaughterhouses of Indonesia) - and need to be examined very thoroughly. The operations of industry bodies MLA / Livecorp need to be examined and audited very thoroughly. This industry cannot be allowed to operate under self regulation. For decades, the industry has cared very little for the animals they ought to have managed with care and respect. So called commercial independent auditors appointed and paid by this industry is not acceptable. This industry cannot be trusted to regulate itself and must not be allowed to operate without fundamental changes. I urge the Inquiry to examine very closely the "independence" of any person or body within the live animal export trade.

Without enforceable animal welfare legislation in foreign countries, animals must not be exported from Australia. Indonesia or any other export destinations do not have

such laws. OIE standards are not sufficient. No export must be allowed in the absence of Australian standards.

Without demonstrable capacity and will to change entrenched cruel practices in the destination countries, animals must not be exported from Australia. (See article enclosed below: "Slashing legs and throats: All in a day's work" The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network Thu June 16 2011) The cruel treatment of cattle in Indonesia is not just in "rogue" abattoirs. It is widespread. MLA/Livestock Australia have installed roping boxes in over 100 abattoirs throughout Indonesia. If even just one animal is treated with cruelty it is a failure of the industry. (See documents "Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership 2009/10 Final report – Public Release Indonesian point of slaughter improvements" MLA Livecorp and "Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership 2009/10 Final report - Public Release Middle East livestock slaughter and handling improvements" MLA Livecorp)

Without mandatory stunning-standing-slaughter, animals must not be exported from Australia. OIE standards are not sufficient to protect animals from abuse and suffering in horrific, barbaric conditions. Where there are no stringent animal welfare laws, there is no recourse to prosecution for animal cruelty. How can this be considered anything other than unacceptable? "Welfare requirements dictate that animals should be insensible to noxious, potentially painful, stimuli during slaughter. In abattoirs, pre-slaughter stunning is usually applied to induce rapid desensitisation of animals to the pain of slaughtering, and to minimise bodily injury risks to abattoir personnel." (Effect of slaughter method on animal welfare and meat quality. Meat technology update. January 2011. CSIRO AMPC MLA.)

Without unfettered access of truly independent parties such as animal welfare bodies such as RCPA to freely assess and examine any stage of the live export trade, animals must not be exported from Australia. So far, no conditions on the resumption of live export to Indonesia include animal welfare bodies to have a role this industry, and such a lack of transparency is not acceptable. I urge the review to consider that animal welfare bodies such as RSPCA and Animal Australia have an integral role in regulating this industry.

Why did the Government not maintain the Suspension of live exports until the Independent Farmer Review Investigation and Senate Inquiry were completed with any decisions subsequently made being strictly in reference to the outcomes of the investigations? Wasn't that the point of suspending the trade? To get to the bottom of the scandal? I believe the Government is gravely mistaken that adequate "safeguards" can be put in place in order to resume the live export trade. The significance of resuming the trade to any country that lacks adequate stringent animal welfare laws in place is that the only outcome that can be "guaranteed" is that animal cruelty will continue to occur.

Any significant economic ramifications from any halt to the trade is acknowledged, but the need prevent animal cruelty is critical. Not doing so will spell the end of the farmers longterm livelihoods. The live animal export trade must diversify and transition to beef and meat exports. The rest of Australia and the rest of the world cannot countenance the continuation of animal cruelty anymore. New Zealand has stood up for its principles and has banned the live export of animals. Its beef and lamb meat exports are a successful business. I believe that the Australian live animal

export industry must acknowledge the cruelty, and move forward from such backward ways and embrace the urgent changes needed to uphold animal welfare now. That the live animal export industry be banned must be a realistic outcome, because animal cruelty cannot be prevented and there is no other option. It doesn't matter how "valuable" this trade is monetarily. If just one animal suffers, this trade is nothing but a morally and ethically bankrupt business. This is very shameful, and very sad. Closing our eyes to this cruelty is not acceptable.

Finally, I urge the Inquiry to consider a Judicial Inquiry to be conducted.

## Slashing legs and throats: All in a day's work

The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network

Thu, Jun 16, 2011

Workers in Jakarta's slaughterhouses say the way they kill cattle is not inhumane and uses only conventional "manual" measures.

Muhammad Mudhofir, who previously worked at the Pulogadung slaughterhouse in East Jakarta, told The Jakarta Post recently that he and his co-workers typically crippled animals before they were killed.

"When we killed an animal manually, first we'd incapacitate it and tie it down by its head and legs," he said. "We could also do it with the help of restraining boxes and stun guns but, in practice, we found it was easier to do it manually."

Mudhofir, a slaughterhouse worker from 1997 to 2002, said some people might find the process of incapacitating cattle disturbing or abusive.

To cripple cattle, he said, workers had to slash an animal's legs to make it drop to the ground and then slash its neck to render it unconscious.

"The slaughterhouse workers are accustomed to the traditional methods. We were never trained in modern tools such as restraining boxes or stun guns, he said, adding that such training was non-existent at his slaughterhouse.

"It is true that workers might kick, punch or do anything that necessary to make the animal fall down."

Cattle were typically killed between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. so the carcasses could be readied for sale by 4 a.m.

Mudhofir no longer works at a slaughterhouse. He owns a butcher shop in Mampang, South Jakarta, and only slaughters cattle occasionally upon customer request.

Another slaughterhouse worker, Agus, told the Post that the Australian cattle were more aggressive than local ones. According to him, local cattle were tamer because they were raised in cages while Australian cattle matured in open fields.

In local slaughterhouses, cattle are dragged to the top of concrete mounds and then toppled over, falling to their deaths.

"As far as I know there is no rule or regulation governing slaughtering methods except from religious regulations as in Islamic teachings," Agus, a worker at a Mampang slaughterhouse, said.

All the government provided was infrastructure and all it checked was health-related paperwork, Agus said.

The Australian government halted the export of its cattle to Indonesia earlier in June after the broadcast of a television documentary that portrayed the slaughter of Australian cattle in Indonesia in a poor light.

In the documentary, steers were shown in footages as suffering from being whipped and taking minutes to bleed to death after their throats were cut.

Animal Australia and the Australian Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, better known as the RSPCA, want the live cattle trade banned on cruelty grounds. Both cooperated with

Australian Broadcasting Corp. to produce the gruesome television program screened nationally late last month.

RSPCA chief scientist Bidda Jones, who analyzed the video slaughter of 50 cattle, said the slaughter men used on average 11 cuts to the throat to kill each animal, and as many as 33.

The Australian standard was death within 30 seconds.

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