

14 July 2011

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

Dear Sir

Submission on live exports

I am writing to urge the committee to seriously consider banning live exports of sheep and cattle. The public has been aware for some time of the distressing conditions that sheep endure on the long journey to the Middle East. This suffering has been ignored and the trade allowed to continue.

Now we are made aware of the trade in cattle. After the widespread outcry by the Australian public, the government has allowed the resumption of such cruel practices without any guarantee from the Indonesian authorities that their practices be improved.

Once again it is the hip pocket nerve affected, the trade may be lost to Argentina or another supplier.

Regarding the issues which the suppliers have, which are genuine and cannot be ignored, it will require long term planning to provide facilities in Australia for the cattle to be processed here for export as meat products. The government should provide investment for these facilities

Consequently it appears that the issues are:

1. If the live cattle trade is to temporarily continue, while alternative arrangements are made, this should only be done with abattoirs which will meet Australian standards for slaughter
2. Immediately start providing for facilities in this country to process cattle and sheep here.
3. This will allow time for the producers to reorganise their production methods to meet the requirements of processing the animals here.

yours faithfully

Simone Bowskill