

To whom it may concern,

I have been involved in exposing the cruelty of the live export trade for nearly 10 years. It shames me, as an Australian, that animals had to go through this degree of cruelty, for so long, before a ban was brought about.

As you may know, of the 50 slaughters observed during this trip to Indonesian slaughterhouses:

- every slaughter facility breached international animal welfare guidelines
- most animals were subjected to abuse through eye gouging, kicking, tail twisting and even tail breaking
- cattle experienced an average of 11 cuts to the throat with one animal having his throat cut 33 times
- half of all Australian animals observed showed signs of consciousness more than 1.5 minutes after their throat was cut; and
- one animal with a broken leg was tortured for 26 minutes before being killed.

In my opinion, Australian producers involved with the live export trade have had ample time to make changes - to demand that their animals be treated with the care they receive in Australia the second the cattle leave our shores. Instead, they allowed this cruelty to continue for YEARS. The fact that they believed this ban left them "high and dry" proves that they had absolutely no intention of stopping this injustice themselves, or even considering the welfare of their 'produce' overseas. They were going to continue ignoring the issue.

The industry has clearly been shown to be incapable of raising animal welfare standards in their export markets to an acceptable level and that Australia can no longer put its faith in them to do so.

I find it unacceptable for Australia to continue the live animal export trade in the knowledge that we can never ensure the wellbeing of our animals from the moment they leave our shores. Please maintain the ban on live export.

Thankyou,

Ashley