

THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR RURAL

AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT

ANIMAL WELFARE BILL, 2003 PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL

SUBMISSION FROM

[AFIC] AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION of ISLAMIC COUNCIL AND COUNCILS IN CONJUNCTION WITH [HKM] HALAL KIND MEATS, PALE AND RSPCA QLD

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the provisions of the *National Animal Welfare Bill 2003*.

We would request this to be published and would like to give evidence at your enquiry.
Thank You

(AFIC) holds
Concerns for Animal Welfare.

Livestock Animal Welfare Standards
(AFIC) AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNCIL and Councils

(AFIC) would encourage standard animal welfare codes of practise to include all animals being transported not just animals going for live exports.

Not to include all animals whether they be travelling to local slaughter houses sale yards or ships would only cause confusion and make it difficult for officers and other bodies to successfully police these codes.

(AFIC) and Councils call for the introduction of satellite navigation systems which will allow tracking and tracing transport at any moment of the journey. The installations of such systems should receive funding from all interested parties in the Industry including the DPI. These devises save valuable man power, time, staff and wages. (AFIC) also recommends that inspections include at least 20 per cent of the transported animals each year within each state. Control missions should be carried out each year in each state should include Veterinary Officers in each State also within a reasonable range or on call veterinary officers working on a pro rata basis. Poor enforcement of Animal Welfare Legislation has always been a problem and thanks to these measures (we can be more equipped to assist to carry out these tasks with the Australian Police DPI officers and possibly with the assistance of transport officers as well after receiving training and attending courses.

Transport officers are within these areas in their line of duty controlling the transport trucks, so it makes good sense for these officers to be further trained saving time money and providing Animal Welfare that in some cases where they may not be other officers.

ISLAMIC COUNCILS further calls for all members of boards and committees be made up of independent people to be elected by the public that further no person shall have a conflict of interest or a direct involvement in the meat industry or live exports.

This is paramount to be enabled to carry out duties along with police and appointed transport

and dpi officers.

We further submit that in remote areas or areas deemed acceptable elected persons may be trained and sworn in to operate as inspectors-----

However these - inspectors are only to act in the line of a de-facto inspector and to contact one of the above officers mentioned should they deem there to be a problem.

They will however have the power to stop question inspect and require the operator to cooperate until another officer arrives on the scene.

Further would like to submit the need for all transport trucks to be made to keep an up to date log which will be kept up to date i.e. pick up time stops food rest water. Failure to comply with these conditions will ensure a fine of a reasonable size to deter these drivers or companies whom are notorious failing to comply further.

We would encourage strongly a reward to be given to anybody assisting with information as to the mistreatment or failure to comply with the codes of practise or inflicting cruelty onto any animal.

Officers to inspect all vessels carrying live stock which especially includes ships before loading.

Meat officers and Animal Welfare officers to have the power to stop loading of any boat not meeting standards. While (AFIC) must remain independent it would be folly to expect a not for profit organization to carry all the costs of these increased inspectors and suggests a new way to share funding that already exists by levy be shared to all parties involved in this industry to be made available to pay the staff without interference to the staff in anyway what so ever. Again the satellite tracking will keep costs down for all involved.

In fact (AFIC) encourage the new Animal Welfare Codes of Practise adopted by Europe. A copy of this policy of Animal Welfare Codes of Practise is attached to this Submission. Animal Welfare is a number two to three issue world wide and we feel it is well time Australia caught up with many other countries and then improve some different animals require different levels of care and different levels of actual transport time and we will address that animal by animal in the second part of our submission. There are also other considerations which would be best served by further discussions

Animal transport and handling recommendations codes of practice continued Part 2

(AFIC) are encouraging for animals who are destined for the meat market to be sold direct from farm to slaughter house. In this day of modern technology there seems no reason why overseas practices long in place can not be adopted in Australia. In fact this could then be used as a point of tracking cutting out stolen stock and millions of dollars in loss, man power and providing healthier less stressed animals and above all cutting the transport time to absolute minimum which has long been a concern of (AFIC) as a matter of record.

Selection of live stock and their preparation for transport by sea.

(AFIC) recommends as previously stated it is preferable for buyers to arrange to purchase stock direct from the farm.

In this day of computers, telephones, emails and traveling stock and station agents there is no reason not to purchase direct.

Animals are to be purchased giving consideration to not only the codes of practice in place but finding a way to police these activities to ensure correct procedures are being followed.

Again this is where the public nominated person could be utilized along with accredited members of local shire council's ministers of churches, dpi officers, (AFIC) Meat Inspectors and Animal Welfare Inspectors police transport and other groups working as spotters and inspectors working in a nominated manner in conjunction with the Animal Welfare groups and all of the

above involved in Animal Welfare. The most cost effective and indeed effective will be the satellite links to these farms. Most already have satellite links with home schools for children etc.

(AFIC) also considers that unless a practicable manner and licensing of farms is introduced with staff allotted to handle and care for stock based on numbers > beasts per handler is introduced animal welfare is not controllable and is not being taken seriously

We future recommend that all farmers and farms are visited at least once per year to enforce Animal Welfare standards are up help especially this could be said of feed lots which is felt by all needs closer attention..

All other codes of practice current should be not only in writing but enforced far more stringently by united officers as previously stated-

We recommend) an accreditation of farmers and large fines to offenders with a final suspension of that license or accreditation if the farmer is to be fined more than twice under the code. Selection is then to be carried out in a manner complying,, and given great consideration to the codes of practice land transport of animals for live exports and all animal transport= transport by road of Animals destined for slaughter ships or further fattening to be limited to 6 hours or 500km.

All vehicles will possess a forced ventilation system or air conditioning.

All vehicles will have means to measure temperature and humidity in the livestock section which can be monitored in the driver's cabin.

Animals transported for longer than 8 hours must be given sufficient space to lie down-all at the same time. This is WHY AFIC Feel strongly about establishment of CO JOINT FREE RANGE FARMS and ABATTOIRS within a maximum eight hour trip throughout Australia. Until this is accomplished Australia Wide all vehicles and drivers must allow adequate inspection of each of the animals at all times.

An official vet must be present during loading for journeys of longer than 8 hours in order to ensure that all animals are fit for travel and that stocking density is correct.

All drivers must receive training and have their competence independently assessed.

The number of inspections to verify the adherence of regulations should be increased and the procedures should be increased substantially adopting procedures uniform through out the states.

(AFIC) again recommends strongly that satellite navigation and positioning system such as global positioning is urgently put into place, in order to keep costs down and to provide proper enforcement of animal's welfare codes of practice.

All vehicles are to be inspected and to have rubber matting kept in good repair on floor and loading ramp.

Shade covers that can be pulled over in the case of a breakdown where there are no trees.

All trucks to have a co-driver especially in places far out back such as Northern Territory and other outback areas. Further that Animal Welfare programs are part of police and public cadet training with regular refresher courses and public schools and others teach Animal Welfare as part of School Curriculum along with its young Muslim Animal welfare Groups.

(AFIC) also submits that all drivers receive proper training and certification.

Managing of livestock at quest -registered pre-embankment premise.

That independent officers as previously mentioned and accredited persons conduct this inspection in conjunction with staff and at all times carry out the many different relevant issues in regards to the Animal Welfare.

That all vessels are to be inspected before the loading of the animals without exception to ensure standards.

If this is not carried out by inspectors and accredited Animal Welfare Officers then it is carried out by water police and sworn officers especially appointed who will remain independent codes of practice are of no value and the industry is not serious about improving Animal Welfare Standards.