



14 August 2023

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

SUBMISSION: INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS AMENDMENT (ANIMAL WELFARE) BILL 2023

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports Amendment (Animal Welfare) Bill 2023*.

Stop Live Exports is a community-led, non-profit organisation that advocates for the end of live animal exports from Australia. Our submission is representative of the views of over 17,000 Stop Live Export supporters who believe that the live animal export trade is inherently cruel, outdated and has no place in Australian society.

It is positive to see that Labor is trying to progress its election commitment to create an office of the independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare. However, the proposal to simply expand the role of the current Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports to encompass animal welfare is not good enough.

The Australian public continues to be disappointed by continual animal welfare issues in the live animal export trade. To regain trust, oversight on the welfare of animals involved in the live export trade should be the responsibility of a dedicated Inspector-General for Animal Welfare. This responsibility should not fall to the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports, who already has responsibility for improving regulatory practices in the industry and ensuring more accountability from regulations and livestock export officials.

Furthermore, it is imperative that any staff appointed to the office of the Inspector-General for Animal Welfare have adequate animal welfare qualifications, such as post-graduate qualifications in animal welfare science, law or policy. The proposed Bill is silent on any such qualifications.

The proposed Bill also restricts the role of an Inspector-General for Animal Welfare to live animal exports, whereas live animal exports should just be one of the activities falling within the scope of the Inspector-General for Animal Welfare.

We strongly encourage the Government to reconsider this Bill and establish a separate and more meaningful office of the Inspector-General for Animal Welfare.