



Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Senator for Queensland

REF: MNMC2011-12365

The Hon. John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear ~~Mr~~ Murphy

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2011 on behalf of the Standing Committee on Petitions forwarding a petition about the cruelty of live animal exports.

I understand the expectation that, as the minister responsible for the matters raised in the petition, under standing order 209(b) I must lodge a written response with your committee. Please accept this letter as the response to be considered by the committee, as well as presented to the House, recorded in Hansard and posted on the committee's website.

Anyone who watched the footage aired on the ABC's *Four Corners* program on 30 May 2011 would have been shocked by the treatment of the animals it showed.

It was clear from this footage that the live export industry cannot safeguard the animals it sells without strong government regulation.

The Australian Government had to act. To fix problems raised in the footage, the government introduced a strict new framework for livestock exports to Indonesia that ensures animals will be treated in a way that meets or exceeds international animal welfare standards.

On 21 October 2011 the government announced that it would be extending this framework to all other markets for Australian feeder and slaughter livestock. The new framework will be phased in with 75 per cent of trade covered by the end of February 2012, 99 per cent by the end of August 2012 and all markets covered by the end of 2012. The decision was informed by an independent review of Australia's livestock export trade by Mr Bill Farmer AO, as well as reports from two industry-government working groups on live cattle, and live sheep and goat exports.

These changes fundamentally reform the way the live export trade works. Before, there were no rules to cover what happened after an animal arrived in an export market. Once the new framework is rolled out, the way Australian livestock are treated in all markets must meet or exceed international standards.

More information about government action on live exports is available at [www.liveexports.gov.au](http://www.liveexports.gov.au).

Thank you again for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**Joe Ludwig**

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
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