

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets**

Regardless of how much money is spent improving foreign abattoirs or how many empty promises are made by the Meat and Livestock Association, and the relevant government Departments, both here and overseas, the only way to guarantee that satisfactory animal welfare standards are applied in Australia's export market is to completely ban live animal export. Meat and meat products are cheaper to ship (as they can be bulk packed and do not require feeding), reduce wastage (as meat will not die in transit) and keep jobs in Australian abattoirs instead of using our tax money to fund overseas abattoirs and infrastructure.

There is no justification for continuing the trade in live animals, yet there are plenty of reasons to end it, with animal welfare being a key factor. Australian abattoirs can meet religious slaughter standards.

The current focus of the media is the animal welfare standards at the foreign slaughterhouses. This overlooks the poor welfare standards for the animals in transit. Improving foreign abattoirs will not improve the transport conditions, nor will it reduce the number of animals that suffer and die on ships and in feedlots upon arrival.

The general public of Australia supports a total ban on live animal export, as evidenced by one of the largest petitions in Australian history. Now our government representatives need to represent us and ban live animal export.

Regards,

Jess Sackmann