

Chairman,

I believe the benefits to Australian industry are being overlooked in this debate, especially in remote areas where processing plants will assist unemployment.

I ask that you consider the benefits to the Australian economy of developing processing plants in Australia, in conjunction with a progressive ban on live exports, which will keep profits onshore, assist those 'doing it tough' in the Far North and at the same time meet our duty of care towards livestock under our control.

I also ask that you to give close attention to the disease, trauma and stress of transportation especially over long distances such as a long sea voyage from Australia and by road in hot conditions as we experience in this country. There is abundant evidence to show that processing should be done as near the point of origin as possible. Bear in mind that the fear experienced by the animals during transportation does detract from the end product so long transportation is counter productive. This is why the Japanese nurture and massage their Wagyu beef cattle.

All political parties state they are committed to climate change issues. Long road and sea transportation is a profligate waste of energy when processing can readily be done within Australia. The energy cost of producing the fuel alone for such long transportation is a scandal in light of current environmental thinking.

Finally, are you aware that the international community (especially the UK) regards Australia's live export policy as completely out of step with the rest of the civilised world and as hindering their own efforts to abolish these practices? I refer you to address of Mr Peter Stephenson, the keynote speaker and a London lawyer, to the rally in Sydney on 14 August 2011 in Sydney organised by Animals Australia. The contact details for Animals Australia are (as shown on their website) are 1800 888 584 and 03 9329 6333.

I submit for your consideration my letter to the editor of the SMH yesterday:

"The Australian community is known as one which cares for animals and I would expect that most Sydney residents abhor the mass cruelty to our animals that is occurring in many overseas processing plants.

A staged ban on all live exports, coupled with the development of more processing plants in Australia, will create employment for Australians, particularly in remote areas, while at the same time avoiding the terrors of the long dark sea journey for the animals who suffer during transport as well as the horrors on arrival.

Any special requirements of particular groups can be met within Australian, or they might wish to send teams to work in the Australian processing plants, as I am told is done in UK.

It makes so much sense to keep this industry at home, why do our politicians continue to resist a win-win situation? "

C Needham