

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport

We are writing to request that the government reinstates the ban of live trade to Indonesia to prevent continued inhumane treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia.

I would like to express my support of the passage of the Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill 2011 [No.2] and the Live Animal Export Restriction and Prohibition Bill 2011 [No. 2] which seek an end date for all live animal exports within 3 years.

In the interim years, we recommend that the Australian Government together with industry implement the highest standards of animal welfare, which are confirmed to go beyond those set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

World leading expert in animal behaviour, Professor Temple Grandin, has reported that research agrees that throat-cutting without stunning does not induce instantaneous unconsciousness. Ritual slaughter remains to submit animals to some level of cruelty and is inhumane. **If the government maintains live cattle export, you must include a guarantee that slaughter without stunning (known in most cases as ritual (halal or kosher) slaughter) will *not* occur.**

The recent concern about live export, which is a federal animal welfare responsibility, highlights the need for a national agency to address animal welfare issues. In light of the recent situation of the treatment of Australian cattle exported to Indonesia, and the recent reporting of the lack of credible research into slaughter of such cattle in Indonesia, it is clear that Australia needs a Non-Departmental Public Body to review and recommend advice on animal welfare matters. **I would like to recommend the establishment of an *Australian Animal Welfare Council* to provide accurate independent advice on animal welfare matters.**

Yours Sincerely

Marela and George Vuckov