



COPY

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland

REF: MNMT2010-12849

Mr Peter Kane
Chairman
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
PO Box 5552
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Kane

Thank you for meeting me on 30 November 2010 to discuss livestock exports and the handling of Australian sheep in Kuwait and Bahrain during the recent Eid-ul-Adha (the Eid) religious festival.

I want to acknowledge at the outset the work which has been done by industry and government over recent years to improve the animal welfare outcomes in terms of live animal exports over recent years. I am writing to seek your assistance to make further improvements.

On 1 December 2010, as you know, the ABC's *7:30 Report* ran *Animals Australia* footage of poor handling, transport and slaughter of Australian sheep in Kuwait and Bahrain during the Eid. I told you at our meeting that the Australian Government was very concerned about the mistreatment of animals and, as part of Australia's live trade, had committed to assessing proposals to improve animal welfare outcomes.

Since the *Animals Australia* media release of 17 November 2011 on livestock mistreatment during the Eid, and the *7:30 Report's* follow-up story, over 10,000 people concerned by the issue have contacted my office.

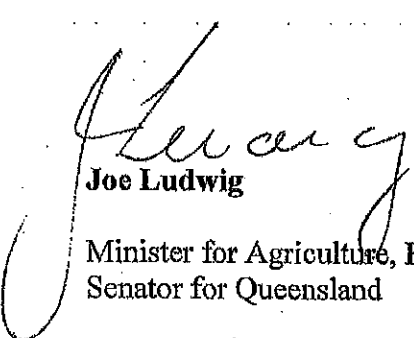
I have on many occasions publicly outlined my support for the live animal trade and its importance to agricultural communities across Australia. In order to ensure that the trade has sufficient community support, I am seeking to work with the industry to develop proposals to improve animal welfare outcomes for the live animal trade in general, but especially during the Eid-ul-Adha festival.

One of the options on which I would like your advice is a closed loop system for the importation, lot feeding and slaughter of livestock in importing countries, similar to the one for Australian cattle exported to Egypt. How could such a system be implemented, and what

management arrangements, such as government regulation, industry management or a combination of both, could be applied?

I look forward to receiving the industry's proposals to ensure higher standards of animal welfare generally and during the Bid in 2011.

Yours sincerely



Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland

17 January 2011

cc Dr Roly Nieper, Chairman LiveCorp