



Senator The Hon Joe Ludwig
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

July 2011

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of the Asia for Animals 2011 organising committee members, representing international organisations with extensive knowledge of animal welfare issues. We express our deep concern with regards the export of live farm animals to countries in the Middle East and South East Asia for fattening and slaughter. This export trade is causing severe suffering and the inhumane death of millions of animals.

Each year tens of thousands of sheep suffer and die enroute to the Middle East as a result of failing to eat, salmonellosis, heat stress and other factors. Long distance transportation by sea is inherently risky, leads to unnecessary stress and will never be deemed acceptable from an animal welfare perspective.

Once these animals reach the destination country, the majority have their throats cut while they are fully conscious, leading to an incredibly painful and prolonged death. The conditions of transport and methods of slaughter are in clear contravention of the OIE terrestrial code for the transport of animals by sea http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.7.2.htm and the OIE terrestrial code for the slaughter of animals http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.7.5.htm undermining the global work of the OIE to regulate the transport and slaughter of animals for food to reduce such suffering.

A recent Galaxy opinion poll commissioned by the World Society for the Protection of Animals revealed an overwhelming 79% of Australians believe live sheep exports are cruel, and 86% agree the Government should phase out live sheep exports if there's an alternative that saves Australian jobs.

Science has proven animals are sentient beings with the ability to develop complex thoughts, social skills, and the ability to feel pain and to suffer. The welfare of animals involved in long distance transportation can never be guaranteed and therefore we ask this

live transport is replaced with a carcass trade where animals are stunned prior to slaughter within Australia.

Australia's international reputation is being severely damaged through your involvement in this animal suffering. On behalf of our members globally, we urge you to take action to prevent further suffering, support the Live Export Prohibition bill proposed by Andrew Wilkie MP and Senator Nick Xenophon and ultimately end the live export of farms animals for fattening and slaughter.

Yours



David Neale

Animal Welfare Director

Animals Asia Foundation

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On behalf of the following organisations:

- Animal Guardians
- Animal People
- Animals Asia Foundation
- Animal Concerns Research & Education Society
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Compassion in World Farming
- Humane Society International
- International Animal Rescue
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK)
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HK)
- World Society for the Protection of Animals

Copied to:

The Hon Julia Gillard

Prime Minister

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

