

Tuesday, 22 January 2019

I have read the Heat Stress Risk Assessment report, other documentation on the website and several submissions by other respondents.

My support lies with the submission from Animals Australia. I cannot support live export under any conditions, regulations or standards imposed. It is an industry founded on cruelty and is akin to the immorality of human slavery.

Irrespective of any regulations and protections you put in place, the welfare of the animals will always be compromised in live export. Additionally, once the animals reach the destinations, they are outside of Australia's jurisdiction, monitoring and enforcement of standards and regulations becomes impossible.

The only humane action to take is to cease all live export immediately. The cruelty and conditions are unacceptable at any time of the year for animals subjected to long journeys to their slaughter. Crossing the equator into weather conditions which are diametrically opposed to those at the place of departure in Australia means they are subjected to extremes without opportunity to physically adjust to the conditions. Conditions on board the live export vessels for the animals are unhygienic and inadequate. They have no opportunity to rest and access to food and water is impeded by the density of stocking in the pens – at any density prescribed. Once they succumb to the conditions, their situation and well-being becomes even more perilous.

The decision is so obvious to anyone with a heart and interested in the welfare of the animals: all live export must end. If Humans wish to consume animal products (eat, wear, use), the animals MUST be slaughtered as close as possible to the farm gate. We are responsible for the humane treatment of the animals in our country and of our country, both native and introduced. It is an abomination to allow this trade to continue. I cannot and will not support live export, irrespective of any changes made to the rules imposed.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” Mahatma Gandhi

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Ophof', written in a cursive style.

Deb Ophof