Over quite a few years now we have regularly had reports of the appalling conditions animals in the live export trade are subject to.

On every occasion I have written a letter (not just email) to the Minister responsible, who NEVER bothered to reply to any of my correspondence. Recent revelations make it quite clear why this was the case - a complete disgrace.

In 1985, an Australian Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare conducted an inquiry into the live animal export industry. Its report was not complimentary. It included the observation that "if a decision were to be made on the future of the trade purely on animal welfare grounds, there is enough evidence to stop the trade."

It is time to stop this barbaric trade. There is no need whatsoever for anyone to profit from such suffering.