

21st November 2018

## **Submission to the Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)**

Dear Committee Members,

This year, we have yet again seen the failure of the live export industry to protect Australian animals from abject cruelty on board ships. We've seen animals subjected to cramped, filthy environments, bogged down in their own faeces and without clear access to food and water.

The proposed ASEL Standards must do better for animal welfare – Australians will not stand for the cruelty of this industry to continue unchecked, and I'm writing to you to voice my concerns and my expectations for animal welfare within the new standards. You must surely be aware that there is intense community pressure from such diverse parts of our society to put an end to live exports. It is disgraceful and embarrassing that media outlets such as the New York times, The Guardian, and Al Jazeera have reported on what can only be described as Australia's shame. Time after time, we see evidence that live export companies and the live export industry can't meet Australian community standards and protect the welfare of Australian animals. It's a horrifying track record.

Whenever any animal is subjected to live export from Australia by sea, it is my expectation their treatment and conditions will meet evidence-based animal welfare standards to protect them from harm.

Although the recommendations put forward in the ASEL Review Draft Report go some way towards this, my submission is that further changes are needed to bring these standards up to scratch, as I have outlined below. Detailed evidence to support these changes is provided in the submissions put forward by RSPCA Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association.

### **Sourcing and preparation of animals**

- I support the recommendation to prohibit the export of pregnant *Bos taurus* cattle during the high risk May to October period. However, the risks are too great to allow cattle of any class to be exported from southern ports across the equator at this time.