

Stage 2 – draft standards submission
Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock
20th November 2018
Cr Karen Eckermann
Murray Bridge, South Australia

My submission in this instance relates only to the aspirations and wellbeing of my local community, residents within the Rural City of Murray Bridge, as stakeholders in the consideration of live animal exports from South Australia, by sea, and the cost benefit to considering alternative means.

Murray Bridge comprises agricultural enterprises and a number of abattoirs and meat processing facilities including the huge iconic South Australian processors (and major employers), Big River Pork and Thomas Foods.

Most residents of the region are to some degree involved in agriculture or food processing and almost all within our community reject the notion that live animal exports should leave our shores when meat processing and associated value add can be performed within Australia – and particularly – within our region.

The shocking, disgusting, inhumane treatment of animals so inherent to the live animal export business model is cruel and unnecessary – and it is also hurting average Australians via bypassing our opportunities to input to this important Australian resource. Further investment to improve the conditions for animals on board export ships is welcomed – but there is considerable concern that the endeavour is futile and will be an expensive waste of time and effort in propping up an industry doomed to fail.

I herewith convey the sentiments of the community to which I am a big part of and have received myriad representations - from community groups, concerned individuals, and worried meat workers and supporting businesses – all of which are perplexed that our national government seems to be working against their wishes in pursuing the live animal export model rather than retaining meat processing employment within our own borders.

I urge the discontinuation of live animal export overall – and most particularly, the especially futile and wasteful ships that depart southern Australia during the Middle Eastern summers. There are plenty of options to ensure export supply via frozen and packaged meat products processed within the Rural City of Murray Bridge and similar locations around the nation.

My submission herewith is personal. I do not write on behalf of the Rural City of Murray Bridge council or on behalf of any professional or business organisation. Rather, I write about my own observations, the sincere desire for the wellbeing and prosperity of my local community – and to call for an end to a failed industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.



Karen Eckermann

