
Dear Philip,

thank you for inviting me to comment.

My bona fides: spent last 8 years writing emails to MPs and corporates for Animals Australia. Greens branch member. Keep up-to-date on news and animal rights issues.

This is a personal letter; it is not on behalf of Animals Australia.

My thoughts:

1. You absolutely, positively have to enforce the law. There is strictly no point drafting or revising laws and codes if you do nothing about them. Animal handlers get away with murder. Pregnant ewes allowed on board, sawdust not put down, on-board inspectors doing nothing about the conditions they find.
2. This tells me there is Unsubstantiated defamatory material that primary industries must be allowed to operate [votes are lost otherwise; people don't get a seat on the board when they quit government]. Perhaps a matter of simple culture: you guys must employ a lot of primary industry types, yes? So perhaps there's an innate sympathy for industry.
3. You must encourage exporters and the supply chain to view animals as something other than industrial units. There is a fundamental disconnect in the public mind between the love we extend companion animals and the cruelty we do food animals. Offensive material
4. Educate departmental staff that there is widespread regulatory non-compliance
5. Employ lots of investigators, and give them teeth. Offensive material
6. Live export's a no-goer. Kill animals here, ship frozen product.
7. Employ some of us! Animals Australia FTW:):):)

Thank you for your attention and have a nice day, Geoff:)