

# Australia – Live Export Market

## The Truth about Live Export

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**Government, journalists, cattlemen's associations, and various politicians, are attempting to cloud the issues about Australia's live export trade.**

Here are some facts:

1. Governments (Federal, Territory and State) have known the facts of halal cruelty for 18 years. Indonesian **halal is intended to inflict pain**, employing a slow sawing motion to cut throats, rather than the less-than-a-second two-motion movement used by Australian professionals. Moreover, halal knives are invariably blunt. Even if *animal rights* were legislated in Indonesia, the Indonesian Government is simply too corrupt to maintain regulatory controls.
  - Australian **live export feeds only the rich in Indonesia**. Indonesian farmers and their families who supply this market are being driven bankrupt by our exports, and have been calling for cessation since imports began. This harms, not helps the Indonesian people.
  - Government warned Australian Meat and Livestock of this crisis six months ago. Crush boxes were sent as a sop to this pressure. Government knew this full well.
  - Live export contributes little to Australia's prosperity; only to the handful directly engaged, and on stations that are often foreign-owned.
  - Live export is endemically cruel, in spite of public relations stunts and media releases organised by the export lobby. Worse, when animals reach their destination, they may be tied up for hours or days without water, before finally being killed in acts of horrific and indifferent cruelty.
  - **Live export cost Australians a quarter of a million jobs** in: abattoirs, meat packaging, yarding, leather tanning, leather manufacturing, meat distribution, package manufacturing, meat grading dyes, meat and bone cutting implements, organic fertilisers, casein, meat inspection officers, butcher's supplies, freezing works uniforms and laundry services, transport services, and retail.
  - That cattle farming is non-viable in the Top End has been known since at least 1982. Buffalo thrive while cattle starve, and the Department of Primary Production urged a move to buffalo domestication as far back as 1975. Buffalo were largely eradicated by 1988/89 to please US cattle lobbyists. Powerful interests in the NT's Country Liberal Party profited immensely from compensation payments made for the buffalo eradication (BTEC) programme. Claims of buffalo damage to the northern environment were falsified, and were in fact caused by feral pigs and disastrous fire regimes executed by the Commonwealth scientists of then ANPWS, which also destroyed one third of Kakadu northern cypress.
  - There is talk of Indonesia's lack of refrigerators and how this justifies live export, but since 1978 there has been a plan to export dried meat and fish to Malaysia and Indonesia; exploiting the NT's massive fish by-catch, buffalo, and feral camel and donkey populations, during the six months of perfect Top End dry season drying winds. The Federal Government has sat on this potentially lucrative industry ever since; no doubt under pressure from meat export lobbyists and foreign aid programmes executives.
  - Claims that live export employs a significant Aboriginal population are simply untrue. Where there is employment it is only for the few weeks of muster. By contrast, a buffalo and dried meat/fish industry could employ and feed thousands of Aborigines in the Top End, Kimberly, North Queensland and elsewhere. Moreover, this is the kind of industry they can operate without outside interference and this can lead to economic independence and an end to welfare dependency.
  
10. Australia's reputation as a nation of decent and civilised human beings is at stake. If we fail to end live export, our good name will be gone forever.

Julia Gillard will say whatever her powerful lobbyists tell her to say, and we cannot rely on her assurances that live export will only proceed on the basis of animal welfare guarantees. It must be stopped now, forever.

There is also the issue of jobs, and regional and rural industrial recovery. Australians need every job we can get, and the elimination of the live export industry will create the biggest explosion in rural and urban jobs in Australia's history.

There is no sound argument to support live export, and ten good reasons (above) why it should be terminated.

We must e-mail to, write to, harangue, and nag our state and federal politicians to end live export. They need to understand that this issue has been embraced by almost the entire nation, and that politicians who do not vote to end live export, will see their names entered on the electoral black list prior to the next elections.

Finally, well done Lyn White of Animal Australia, for her courage in collecting and presenting the evidence of this crime to Four Corners.

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Note: Since 2001, RIED has provided free statistics on unemployment, homelessness; and electoral consensus on current national issues.