

We must stop live export immediately. We need to be on the right side of history. We cannot turn a blind eye to the torture of a sentient being.

They talk about animal producers and truck drivers losing their livelihoods if live export is stopped.

None of these people would lose their work if sheep and cattle were slaughtered in Australia, according to the required cultural or religious slaughtering processes, and the frozen or chilled meat was exported.

We would have control of the slaughtering process, truck drivers would still drive the live animals to slaughterhouses, straw would still need to be produced for feed, stock agents would still be involved in the process and very definitely, vets would be involved during the whole journey.

The way the Indonesians are killing Australian animals, which we all had to witness on our televisions, was barbaric and sick, with no concern for the animals which they had at their disposal.

If the overseas buyers' slaughtering 'needs or requirements' are a sticking point, then invite them to come to Australia to set down the requirements, on site, in our slaughterhouses but only if they meet our standards.

Surely Australia would be far better off economically and develop many downstream jobs?

As we know, at various times, Australia has been embarrassed into ending or severely changing/restricting live beef and sheep exporting.

Cattle, sheep and pigs are sentient beings. As Australians we all stand condemned for the awful treatment of our animals.

Surely, we can control our animal industry better than this?

The AgJournal supplement in the Hobart Mercury, titled 'Last Rites for Live Export' is a clear example of the jaundiced views of the farmers. Photos of sheep on a ship with ample room to move around in and plentiful food, sheep comfortably leaving a truck to load onto a ship and two children kneeling with a sheep in a paddock while hand feeding them bear little resemblance to what actually happens.

I am confident that you are in agreement with my sentiments and I am asking if you will continue to push for the permanent end to live animal exporting and for the establishment (re-establishment) of our own onshore slaughterhouses to incorporate any acceptable slaughtering methods to comply with overseas markets and the meat to be shipped in a frozen or chilled state.

Regards,

Mollie Hill