

BAN ANIMAL CRUELTY – SUPPORT LIVE EXPORT

The Australian pastoral industry is asking their city cousins to help us save another Australian industry from being destroyed. We need your support to educate main stream Australia on the consequences of banning live export from Australia. The ripple effect caused from banning live export will be catastrophic for Australia.

Animal Welfare

Australian cattle men and women are amongst the most compassionate and caring in the world. If we ban Australian live exports we are turning our backs on the animals that will replace our live exports in Indonesia.

We must recognize that the recent revelation in the media about the extent of cruelty in some of the Indonesian slaughter houses is now providing the rest of us with the market power and opportunity to reform their industry. Indonesia is currently negotiating live cattle supply from India and South America. If we stop Australian cattle going to Indonesia we allow the current cruelty to continue on animals sourced from other nations. Do we as a nation consider our animals to be any more precious than others? Help our Aussie farmers put an end to these exposed practices for all animals for all time.

Indonesia has massive socio-economic issues and they need our partnership to facilitate development. The Australian live export trade provides Indonesian people with the opportunity to benefit from backgrounding, feed lotting, breeding, slaughtering and sale of beef in wet markets, but more importantly we help to provide food for a nation which currently has over 100 million people living on less than \$2.00 a day. Lack of electricity and refrigeration make the wet markets a critical link in Indonesia's food supply.

The Top End of Australia is predominantly mineral deficient breeding country, incapable of supplying significant numbers of finished cattle to a domestic abattoir. A domestic abattoir in the NT will also face significant issues in sourcing cattle through the extended wet seasons. Using our cost structure to grow, slaughter, pack, export and sell; Australian beef would be unaffordable to a vast number of Indonesians, even if they had distribution and refrigeration infrastructure to handle frozen beef.

Tuesday the 7th of June marked what could potentially become one of the darkest days in Australia's Beef Industry History, with the announcement of a suspension of the live export trade to Indonesia. This has now been followed by the threat of the closure of all live animal exports from Australia with the Greens and Independents leading the charge by introducing a bill to Parliament on the 20th of June. Should this Bill get up in Parliament then all members of any other primary Industry can consider themselves a target in the future and expect the same fate – it will only be a matter of time. So whether your business is beef cattle, sheep, lambs, wool, goats, chicken, pork, forestry, fisheries, irrigation, cropping or horse sports such as rodeo, campdrafting, horse racing or simply pleasure riding you need to join with us now. You need to let the Government and the rest of Australia know that it is time to draw the line in the sand, that we will not stand by and have Australia's heritage eroded so easily and that the fight starts now. If you are unable to attend the

rally in person you can still show your support and voice your concern by voting online at www.asbf.com.au NOW.

Immediate Casualties:

Live Export has been built up over 20 years specifically breeding cattle for this market creating a whole primary industry of purpose bred cattle and secondary industries including:

- Real estate, Finance and Insurance;
- Transport (Trucking and Helicopter Industries) and Fuel Industries;
- Export Yards;
- Shipping and Stevedores;
- Veterinarians and Animal Health;
- Indigenous Employment and Training;
- Local Fruit & Veg Stores;
- Livestock Agencies;
- Hay Producers, Feed Producers / Processors and Nutrition Supplement Manufacturers;
- Rural Contractors and Local Town Suppliers; and
- Government Department Jobs.

All these industries and their families will be devastated by a prolonged ban.

Indonesia has an even larger workforce that this industry is supporting. The Australian Live Export trade provides Indonesian people with the opportunity to benefit from backgrounding, feed lotting, breeding, slaughtering and sale of beef in wet markets, but more importantly we help to provide food for a nation which currently has over 100 million people living on less than \$2.00 a day. Again, lack of electricity and refrigeration make the wet markets a critical link in Indonesia's food supply.

Environmental

With the live export closed between 500,000 – 700,000 cattle are now left homeless. If the cattle are returned to their stations there will be massive land degradation caused by overgrazing what is now a finely balanced and well managed industry. To truck cattle to the southern markets by road trains would require millions of litres of diesel per year unnecessarily.

Indonesia will source their cattle from other countries if we do not supply them. These countries are infected with disease such as BSE (mad cow disease) and Foot and Mouth disease. If these diseases entered Australia the consequence would be catastrophic for all animals in Australia. By Australia supplying cattle to Indonesia it creates a buffer zone for Australia. We are the cleanest, disease free country in the world. Let's keep it that way.

Financial Effect

The whole of the Australian livestock industry will be affected by approximately 700,000 cattle coming back into the domestic market, resulting in an oversupply and consequently a price slump. There are suggestions of a cattle slump the same as 1974. If any such thing should happen it won't only have an effect on Northern Australia, but the whole of Australia.

Australian farmers have spent 20 years breeding Bos Indicus (Brahman) cattle which are purpose bred for the Indonesian culture and tastes and are suited to the tropical environment. The Top End is incapable of supplying finished cattle to an abattoir. Farmers throughout Australia are amongst the most efficient in the world – prepared to sacrifice their own quality of life so they can better look after the animals and environment which supports us all. This is a 700 million dollar a year industry which has been destroyed at the whim of a political focus group. One third of the cattle stations in the Top End are owned by Aborigines, providing them with meaningful work and employment. Welfare dependency will increase further exacerbating the problem.

Hidden Agenda

Banning the Live Export trade has done nothing to improve animal welfare in Indonesia. The live export trade is the 'soft target' in a larger agenda of stopping all livestock production in Australia.

The live export trade is the easiest to attack. The footage we saw on 4 Corners was taken over four months ago. They chose to sit on this footage until the Top End had started mustering and were ready to ship and for the Gillard Government to be in a weak position. Indonesia will source cattle from South America and India, and will continue to kill them as they please with no prospect of help from their new suppliers.

The animal cruelty was a secondary issue to stopping the live cattle industry. This ban will force the 500,000 – 700,000 head of cattle born each year in the Top End to be sold in the southern markets weakening this market and forcing a great number of the southern beef producers out of business. The cattle industry will then go into rapid decline with no political say, we will then import subsidised beef from another nation to finally kill another Australian Industry - we are expected to sit quietly while this happens.

There is nothing cruel about live exports, the cattle's living conditions on the ships are world class, and feed lots in Indonesia are 30% more efficient than Australian feedlots.

Remember, this is an Animal Welfare issue - not an Export Issue

If you are one of the casualties of the Live Export Ban or you support the need to raise awareness of the above-mentioned information please be involved in the following:

Ban Animal Cruelty – Support Live Export Rally

DarwinCity & Parliament House

21st June 2011

From 6:00am till 2:00pm

If there are any amendments to this time frame you will be contacted prior to the rally – this is why it is essential people RSVP. Please see below for contact details

Ban Animal Cruelty – Support Live Export Rally

concept:

- Peaceful and family orientated
- As many road trains / b-doubles as we can strategically position around town
- Helicopters parked in strategic locations
- As many tractors as we can get parked in front of the road trains
- Families
- Employees
- Owners
- Businesses with their company banners
- All supporters

Code of conduct:

Please be aware that the Ban Animal Cruelty – Support Live Export Rally is a peaceful and family orientated rally. Behaviour that is violent, explicit or offensive is not welcome and will not be tolerated.

This is an opportunity to raise support and awareness, NOT CONFLICT.

If you support any of the issues mentioned we would be greatly appreciative if you would close your businesses on the 21st June 2011 and bring your employees and families to participate in this rally.

Further information and RSVP

As representation of the diverse range of commercial entities that the ban on live export has affected in Northern Australia we are asking participants to not bring protest banners, but to bring banners of their organisation, business, company, station and/or logo for display on the day.

For further information on this rally please contact either the Flying Fox Station office number on (08) 89774222, or email Helen Foster of Landmark Katherine at helen.foster@landmark.com.au

RSVP

To express your interest in participating in this rally and to receive an action plan for the day you must RSVP to helen.foster@landmark.com.au

Please feel free to display this information in you local businesses or circulate to friends – get the message out there!!