

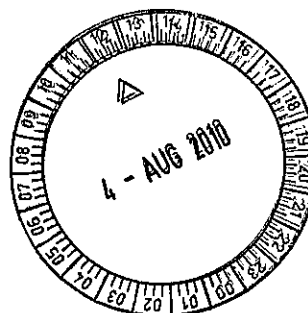
PACAT

**People Against Cruelty
in Animal Transport**



31st July 2010

PUBLIC



Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Member for the Agricultural Region
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Petition NO 83 – Live Animal Trade

Thank you for your receipt of the above petition. People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport (PACAT) would like to provide the attached written submission regarding the issues raised in our petition to assist in your preliminary investigations.

PACAT has not taken our complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman)

If we can assist in anyway with your deliberations please contact me on 0428 767 005.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodie Jankevics".

Jodie Jankevics
Campaign Manager
People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport

Patrons: Chrissie Hynde • Bryce Courtenay • Lynda Stoner

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(i) The animals exported from Fremantle are slaughtered in a cruel manner which would be illegal in Australia.

- Australian animals are exported to countries that have no animal welfare legislation, and are subjected to handling and slaughter practices unacceptable and illegal in Australia.
- Investigations in the Middle East by Animals Australia exposed extreme cruelty which is illegal in Australia. Documented evidence shows dead and dying animals in feedlots, animals being dragged and tied up by their legs, sheep transported in boots of cars, animals slashed with knives to disable them and slaughtered whilst fully conscious. This can be viewed at:

(ii) Legislation covering road transportation and loading of animals is not being adequately policed.

- Annually around 3 million animals are exported from Fremantle. These animals endure considerable suffering during shipment.
 - In 2008 alone, over 35,000 sheep died on sea voyages.
 - Past 30 years 2.5 million sheep died enroute.
 - In March 2010, 263 cattle died on the Ocean Shearer, bound for Egypt. This was the first shipment to Egypt in 3 years after the Australia suspended the trade because of cruelty concerns.
- The journey from Fremantle to the Middle East takes between 2–5 weeks. About 2% of animals die in the feedlot shortly after unloading.
- The incentive to manage the health of the animal only extends to the point where the costs are lower than the economic benefits internal to the trade – this decision may not fully take into account all of the animal welfare concerns of the wider community¹
- The *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, intends to - *ensure the proper and humane care and management of all animals in accordance with generally accepted standards; and (c) reflect the community's expectation that people who are in charge of animals will ensure that they are properly treated and cared for.*
- Community based groups who monitor loading at Fremantle Port note that neither Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) or Department of Local Government inspectors are routinely at the Port: Animal cruelty is a criminal offence and required proof beyond reasonable doubt; the evidence required to meet this standard of proof is difficult when there are no inspectors regularly monitoring operations
- An effective way to ensure compliance with the *Animal Welfare Act* is routine inspections of ports, saleyards and even private properties to create a culture of compliance; this is not occurring.
- The Department of Local Government which administers and enforces the *Animal Welfare Act* has one operational inspector to cover WA: Whilst the Local Government Minister argues that there are 200 Inspectors in WA, these are staff from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA), Environment and Conservation (DEC), local governments, the RSPCA and WA Police: only a small number of them are trained, able or willing to deal with livestock welfare and some staff, such as those at the DAFWA, have a conflict of interest.

¹ *The Value of Live Sheep Exports from Western Australia, A Review of Adjustments that would be required if Live Sheep Exports from WA Ceased*, Acil Tasman, March 2009, RSPCA, p iii.

- RSPCA officers are overloaded with reactive, urgent issues concerning domestic animals and are seldom able to conduct inspections of the ports and saleyards and that they are unable to deal with complaints from the public about livestock.
- The majority of sheep die because they fail to eat during the journey or succumb to salmonella. Identifying sick and dying animals on board is nearly impossible due to stocking density. Every year millions of animals aboard livestock vessels are subjected to stressful handling, social dislocation, and face unacceptable risks and delays due to severe weather, extreme temperatures and trade disputes.

(iii) The live animal trade is undermining the more lucrative, job creating, processed meat trade.

- Export statistics indicates that the live animal trade is undermining a more lucrative, job creating, processed meat trade: In 2009 the value of meat sent to the Middle East, \$365M: Value of live sheep sent to the Middle East, \$323M: Sheep meat exported equivalent to 4.12M sheep: Number of live sheep: 3.6M.
- When live sheep exports to Saudi Arabia and Egypt were suspended, sheep meat exports from Australia to those countries tripled, highlighting the extent to which substitution of meat for live animals is possible.
- In Australia 67% of abattoirs have a Halal program whereby ritual slaughter is done in accordance with the relevant legislative basis and guidelines
- All countries that take live sheep take chilled meat: One major importers of live Australian sheep into the Middle East, the Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading (KLTT) advertises on its website frozen microwavable meals and a wide variety of processed products produced from Australian sheep. KLTT imports live sheep which are then butchered and frozen in Kuwait.

Australian Live Sheep Exports, An Economic Analysis of Australian Live Sheep and Sheep Meat Trade, Acil Tasman, Sept 2009, WSPA, found that:

- A sheep processed in Australia is worth 20% more to the economy than a sheep exported live
- Trade distortions benefit the live export trade over domestic meat processing
- Cessation of the live sheep trade could benefit the Australian economy through substitution of live export sheep with processed sheep meat
- This approach would benefit WA towns where sheep meat processing plants are already located: Australind, Bunbury, Coogardie, Esperance, Geraldton, Gingin, Harvey, Katanning, Kellerberrin, Narrikup, Narrogin, Tammin, Waroona and Woodanilling
- The Meatworkers Union has stated that over the last 30 years a loss of 40,000 jobs and 150 processing plants; Many plants are currently working at 50% capacity

The Value of Live Sheep Exports from Western Australia, A Review of Adjustments that would be required if Live Sheep Exports from WA Ceased, Acil Tasman, March 2009, RSPCA.

- Adjustments would be required by WA sheep producers they do not appear to be extensive compared to other structural adjustment already underway in the industry
- Any adjustments to the loss of the live export market will be modest
- A phase-out period, coupled with a transferrable quota system will significantly reduce the impact on sheep farmers and the economy.

PUBLIC