



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

REF: MNMC2011-05724

Thank you for your correspondence about live animal exports.

Anyone who watched the footage aired recently would have been shocked by the treatment of the animals shown.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, received the footage on the same day that it went to air. In the time since receiving it, the Minister and the Australian Government have undertaken the following actions:

- asked the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to conduct an investigation into the footage
- announced that the government will appoint an independent reviewer to investigate the complete supply chain for live exports up to and including the point of slaughter
- asked for a briefing on the range of legislative and regulatory options available to respond to issues concerned with animal welfare
- moved to suspend live animal exports to the facilities identified by the evidence provided by RSPCA and Animals Australia
- implemented a moratorium on the installation of the restraint boxes, seen being used in the footage, with Commonwealth Government funds
- asked the Chief Veterinary Officer to co-ordinate an independent, scientific assessment of the restraint boxes used in Indonesia.

Following the completion of this work, the government will consider what further actions may be necessary.

The government shares the legitimate concerns of the Australian community about animal welfare abuses, and is taking the necessary actions to improve conditions in the livestock export industry.

Thank you for writing to the government on this important issue. Your concerns have been noted.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry