

3 June 2011

Senator the Hon J Ludwig
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

AMIC yesterday advised that "The announcement of a suspension of live export of cattle to the 12 abattoirs does not, in our opinion, adequately address this issue. Given that live exports go to feedlots in Indonesia for finishing before slaughter, AMIC questions how the Australian Government will enforce this ban."

Since that time advice has been taken on the Export Control (Protection of Animal Welfare) Order 2011 and the industry understanding of how this would be implemented in Indonesia. Whilst AMIC appreciates the efforts of the Government on this complicated matter, AMIC considers that this to date may not be enough to resolve the issue in light of community expectations. Further, the concern of the meat processing sector is that the result might be greater impacts on the Australian industry, particularly the domestic market and associated supply chains.

AMIC is concerned, and considers it unlikely that these animal welfare issues are limited to the 12 named abattoirs. Further it is difficult to understand how the redirection and re-coordination of livestock from Australia can be directed away from the named abattoirs or directed to specific abattoirs. This issue was raised by AMIC on Tuesday 31 May when this Order was proposed and, despite much rhetoric, no specific systems have been developed. It is also clear that initial action will have to first be taken to protect the Australian industry and image, followed by the detailed deliberations on standards, coordination and supply chain arrangements for both Australia with Indonesia would need to occur -- and the development of a more appropriate system could take several weeks.

Without adequate supply chain control AMIC is concerned these Animal Welfare issues in Indonesia will remain thus presenting further risk, not only to the live export trade, but more importantly the reputation of the Australian meat and livestock industry.

AMIC can see no other alternative to the immediate suspension of all live shipments of cattle to Indonesia until there is in place a process, including enforcement, of whole of life animal welfare standards which are the equivalent of the world class standards applied in Australia.

As previously requested, AMIC seeks your urgent and effective intervention to suspend the live export of cattle to Indonesia until a comprehensive process has been developed to ensure that whole of life animal welfare standards are applied to animals from Australia which are destined for processing in Indonesia.

Your early advice in this matter will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. W. Nolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Terry Nolan
Chairman

2 June 2011

Senator the Hon J Ludwig
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

We refer to the ABC Four Corners program and the revelation of animal welfare practices in Indonesia involving live export cattle from Australia. The abhorrence of the Australian public in these practices is reflected by our members and many cattle producers.

The announcement of a suspension of live export of cattle to the 11 abattoirs does not, in our opinion, adequately address this issue. Given that live exports go to feed lots in Indonesia for finishing before slaughter, AMIC questions how the Australian Government will enforce this ban.

AMIC recommends that all live shipments to Indonesia be suspended until there is in place an agreement and a process, including enforcement, of whole of life animal welfare standards which are the equivalent of the world class standards applied in Australia.

To this end AMIC will work with Government and other industry bodies to provide assistance to resolve this issue. It should be noted that AMIC was instrumental in having written the industry animal welfare standard for processing of cattle, which effectively underpin legislation and integrate the current Codes of Practice, regulations, commercial requirements and best practices. These standards are verified by Government inspectors, as well as commercial auditors across Australia. To underpin these Standards, AMIC, in partnership with the National Meat Industry Training and Advisory Council, developed accredited training programs for personnel managing livestock in Australian processing establishments. This expertise is available and is effective in addressing the issues which have arisen in Indonesia.

AMIC seeks your urgent and effective intervention to suspend the live export of cattle to Indonesia and to convene a meeting of parties to develop the process to ensure that whole of life animal welfare standards are applied to animals from Australia which are processed in Indonesia.

Yours faithfully



Terry Nolan
Chairman