



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Mr Michael Finucan
Manager—Livestock Exports
Meat & Livestock Australia
Locked Bag 991
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Mr Finucan

**Variation to deed—Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership
Indonesia point of slaughter improvements project**

I am writing to advise that Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has directed the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to implement a moratorium on the installation of any new Mark I restraint boxes due to animal welfare concerns with the use of such boxes in overseas market places. This moratorium is to apply to all projects that include the installation of any new Mark I boxes with Commonwealth funds.

As a first step, the department proposes to vary the deed of the *Indonesia point of slaughter improvements project* to immediately suspend funding for the installation of Mark I boxes. The department recommends that this funding instead be diverted to the purchase and installation of stunning equipment and intensive training in animal handling and slaughter procedures for operational staff. Your suggestions on alternative activities that show demonstrable improvements in animal welfare would also be appreciated.

Accordingly, we would be grateful for your assistance in providing a revised project outline and budget as soon as practicable.

In line with the moratorium, all work currently underway on the installation of Mark I boxes using Commonwealth funds must cease. In addition, the department requests that industry immediately halts the installation of Mark I boxes using industry funds.

The department will provide advice on the *Middle East and North Africa point of slaughter improvements project* in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Evans', written over a white background.

Jo Evans
Executive Manager
Trade and Market Access Division

31 May 2011