

The Hon. John Howard MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Howard,

I oppose the long-distance transportation of live animals for slaughter overseas.

In 2005, **3.5 million** live Australian animals were exported overseas for slaughter. The transportation of animals causes stress, trauma, injuries, disease, pain, suffering and death. Despite the Government's new live export standards introduced in 2005, deaths of sheep onboard livestock vessels from Australia to the Middle East increased in 2005 to 35,534 from 2004's figure of 28,005.

Furthermore, Australian animals are exported to countries that have no animal welfare laws or provisions. Recent investigations by Animals Australia undertaken in five Middle Eastern countries revealed extreme cruelty inflicted during transportation, holding, handling and slaughter. It is both morally and ethically unacceptable for Australia to export animals into these horrific conditions.

For every live animal exported, a number of Australian jobs in the meat industry and downstream processing are also exported. Many of these jobs are in rural areas where there are few alternatives. Furthermore, the live animal export industry has directly contributed to the closing down of abattoirs and the economic and social demise of many country towns.

Your Government's subsidisation of the live animal export industry costs local jobs and does not have the support of the majority of Australians.

Australia must take the lead on this issue.

It is time for your Government to stop live animal exports.

Yours sincerely,

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____