

LIVE EXPORTS TO INDONESIA

The impact of ending live exports

Three separate independent economic reports over the past two years have found that live exports are undermining Australia's meat processing industry.

Sheep

ACIL Tasman's reviews [1] into the live sheep trade found that phasing out live sheep exports would have a minimal impact on farmers and would in fact reap long-term benefits for farmers and the economy through increased processing in Australia.

Cattle

In 2010, a report [2] commissioned by Australia's leading meat processors - Teys Bros, Swift Australia and Nippon Meat Packers Australia – reached damning conclusions as to the impact of live cattle exports on Queensland's beef industry.

The report found:

- Live cattle exports are cannibalising Queensland's beef-processing industry and threaten to destroy \$3.5 billion worth of assets, \$5 billion in turnover and 36,000 jobs.
- Far from being complementary, live exports compete with and undermine Australia's beef exports.
- Live cattle exports equals Australian job losses and a threat to Australia's capacity to supply the growing world demand for beef.
- Queensland cattle are increasingly being exported live to Indonesia taking with them lost processing opportunities in Queensland.
- Indonesia actively protects its own beef industry and live cattle imports by banning key beef cuts and imposing high tariffs on imported beef product – there is not a level playing field.
- Live cattle exports means premium disease-free cattle are being processed in importing countries and sold in competition with genuine imported Australian beef.

Australia's major meat processors have confirmed that Australia has the capacity to process all cattle and sheep currently going to live export.

Contrary to industry claims, live export does not underpin 10,000 jobs in the rural sector. The majority of those jobs would remain if animals were processed in Australia. In fact thousands of jobs would be created by increased domestic processing.

[1] ACIL Tasman (2009) The value of live sheep exports from Western Australia. A review of adjustments that would be required if live exports ceased from WA & Economic analysis of Australian live sheep and sheep meat trade.

[2] SG Heilbron Economic & Policy Consulting (2010) The Future of the Queensland Beef Industry and the Impact of Live Cattle Exports.

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