

# LIVE EXPORTS TO INDONESIA

## Overview



### **Indonesia is the largest importer of Australian live cattle**

Over the past decade Australia has exported 4.6 million live cattle into Indonesia. In 2010, 520,987 live cattle were exported from northern Australian ports to Indonesia. Live cattle exports to all countries in 2010 were valued at \$684 million, with cattle exports to Indonesia worth \$437.4 million in the financial year 2009/10 [1]. Live cattle from Australia are also sent to the Middle East, Turkey and other parts of Southeast Asia.

### **The journey from Northern Australia to Indonesian ports takes 5 – 10 days**

Cattle exported are *Bos indicus*, primarily Brahman or Brahman cross breeds and come from stations in the north of Australia. They are transported overland to northern ports – Darwin (mainly), Broome, Wyndham, Townsville, Karumba. Most are on ships with 2,000-3,000 capacity and they go to various ports – primarily on Java and Sumatra. The trip from northern Australia to Indonesian ports varies, but is usually from 5-10 days. Between one and five animals die during each shipment - typically from injury, heat stress or pneumonia [2].

### **Most cattle exported to Indonesia are feed-lotted prior to slaughter**

Most Australian cattle arriving in Indonesia spend around 90 days (3 months) in a feedlot where they put on weight prior to being slaughtered. Indonesia has 10 large feedlots and 12 smaller operations with one-time capacities of between 2,000 and 30,000 head. When they have reached slaughter weight, cattle are trucked to either private or government-owned abattoirs.

### **There are over 4,000 slaughter locations throughout Indonesia**

There are at least 121 possible slaughter locations for Australian animals but there are 750 registered slaughterhouses and potentially over 4,000 'slaughter slabs' in Indonesia. These facilities can slaughter anywhere between a few animals a night to over 300 animals a night. Many slaughter facilities are small, often just extensions of cattle holding yards [3]. Facilities range from archaic to relatively modern.

### **Indonesians prefer traditional slaughter methods**

The two primary methods of slaughter for Australian animals are:

i) rope casting whereby ropes are tied from a ring in the floor then around the animal's neck and legs to trip it over onto its side for the throat cut; and ii) restraint boxes that confine the animal in one place so ropes can be tied around the legs and the animal trips over onto its side when it attempts to walk out of the box. Both methods are distressing for the animal and cause a prolonged and cruel death. The restraint boxes (primarily the Mark 1 Restraint Box) were introduced into Indonesia by the Australian live export industry and have been denounced by international experts as being inhumane.

### **90% of cattle slaughtered in Indonesia are not stunned**

Stunning is accepted in Indonesia but is only practiced in a reported four abattoirs. Less than 10% of cattle are slaughtered in these facilities [3] with all other cattle experiencing cutting of the throat while fully conscious.

### **Two separate investigations over the past 12 months have documented the cruel treatment and slaughter of both Australian and Indonesian cattle**

A live export industry commissioned report [4] recently documented poor slaughter methods, with cattle attempting to rise an average of 3.5 times once they had been forcibly tripped into the slaughter position

and then experiencing an average of four cuts to the throat before it was properly cut to allow bleeding out. The Report also documented instances of eye gouging, tail twisting and hosing of animals prior to slaughter. A second investigation [5] carried out in March 2011 documented similar poor treatment and slaughter of both local and Australian cattle, including instances of abuse and torture.

#### **Indonesia does not have any enforceable animal protection laws**

Indonesia is a member of the OIE (the World Organisation for Animal Health), but it does not have any Codes or laws that impose the OIE Guidelines (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for Transport of Animals by Land and the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for Slaughter of Animals) or any other welfare standards.

#### **The Indonesian workforce is largely unskilled and temporary making training difficult**

Due to the largely unskilled and temporary nature of the Indonesian workforce, the live export industry focuses any animal handling training on the higher output private and public abattoirs rather than the smaller facilities [6]. Despite some training under the MLA/Livecorp program, it is clear that the majority of slaughtermen have little understanding of animal behaviour or consideration of their capacity to suffer and feel pain and fear. Cruel and painful techniques are routinely used to move cattle.

#### **The treatment of cattle in Indonesia is contrary to Australian law and standards**

Cattle are stunned prior to slaughter in Australian abattoirs [7] (both for export and for domestic consumption). This includes cattle slaughtered for the halal-certified beef export market. Advice [8] provided in November 2008 to the Primary Industries Standing Committee clearly articulates that restraint should maintain conscious animals in an upright position and using restraint boxes that tip animals "is in itself an animal welfare risk and not acceptable."

#### **Meat from Australian cattle slaughtered in Indonesia may be sold at wet markets or in supermarkets**

Much of the beef consumed in Indonesia is purchased from the fresh market system, with live cattle sold to local butchers who sell through the wet markets [9]. In supermarkets, people can purchase Australian beef processed in Indonesia or Australian (halal-certified) beef imported from Australia as boxed beef [10]. Last year, boxed beef exports to Indonesia were worth \$179.8 million.

#### **Live exports undermine Australia's more valuable meat processing industry**

Three separate economic reports over the past two years have confirmed that live exports are undermining Australia's meat processing industry - an industry five times more lucrative than live exports. ACIL Tasman's reviews into the live sheep trade found that phasing out live sheep exports would have minimal impact on farmers and would in fact reap greater benefits for farmers and the economy through increased processing in Australia. Reports into the impact of live cattle exports on Queensland's beef industry have found that live exports are directly competing with the beef processing sector to the point of threatening its future viability.

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[1] Livecorp Annual Report (2009/2010)

[2] <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/export-trade/mortalities>

[3] MLA/Livecorp Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership, Final report – Indonesian point of slaughter improvements (2009/10)

[4] Independent study into animal welfare conditions for cattle in Indonesia from point of arrival from Australia to slaughter. Caple, I., McGown, P., Gregory, N., Cusack, P. (2010)

[5] Welfare conditions for Australian cattle in Indonesia, An Observational Study, Dr Bidda Jones, RSPCA Australia (2011)

[6] MLA Opportunities to improve slaughter standards and profitability in Indonesia (2005)

[7] [http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-halal-slaughter\\_116.html](http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-is-halal-slaughter_116.html)

[8] [http://www.daff.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/1370332/animal-welfare-livestock-slaughter.pdf](http://www.daff.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1370332/animal-welfare-livestock-slaughter.pdf)

[9] MLA Opportunities to improve slaughter standards and profitability in Indonesia (2005)

[10] [http://www.youtube.com/livestockexporttruth#p/search/0/Flw70rH\\_WZ8](http://www.youtube.com/livestockexporttruth#p/search/0/Flw70rH_WZ8)