



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 06 December 2013

CRUELTY RISKS FUTURE OF LIVE EXPORT TRADE

As people gather in Fremantle for live export rallies this weekend, RSPCA is urging those involved in the live export industry, government and welfare advocates to find an alternative to the live export trade.

The live export trade is high-risk and volatile for farmers and animals, as can be seen by the many cruel incidents which have occurred in recent times and the subsequent effects this has on farmers and industry within the supply chain.

RSPCA believes the ESCAS system hasn't gone far enough in protecting the welfare of exported Australian animals.

"Recent incidents continue to show clear evidence that the ESCAS system is still being breached by rogue operators who have not been held to account for selling Australian animals outside the supply chain. Government and those involved in the live animal export industry must do whatever they can to remove these operators," RSPCA WA President Lynne Bradshaw said.

The chilled and frozen meat export trade for Australia is seven times larger than the live animal export trade. The RSPCA believes that the government, the industry and farmers should be doing all they can to grow this market.

"Investing in Australian meat export markets is the clear solution here – it will ensure our animals are slaughtered here in Australia to Australian standards as well as guaranteeing a future for our producers," Mrs Bradshaw said.

"Australian sheep and cattle producers deserve certainty that there will be a market for their livestock, they need to know that their livestock will be treated in accordance with Australian laws from farm gate to slaughter.

"Live exports will never provide this certainty: every time live export cruelty hits the Australian media live exporter's livelihoods are put at risk," she said.

RSPCA stands ready to assist in any way it can to help grow the chilled and frozen meat trade. This in turn will also help secure the future of Western Australian farmers and the safety of our animals.

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