



**STOP LIVE EXPORTS.org**

## Effective Letter Writing Tips

*Thank you for getting involved. Following are some general ideas and tips for effective letter writing.*

When writing to your MP, ask specific questions, rather than making general statements, such as “live exports are cruel”. That way they have to respond specifically, rather than just provide a general response that is most likely computer generated. Some areas you can ask about include:

- Why do we continue to send animals to overseas countries when we know that they will be subjected to cruel handling methods and where there are no enforceable animal welfare laws?
- Why is it that we continue with live animal exports even though we know the general public is very much against the trade and that the trade embarrasses the Australian Government in the international arena?
- Why does the Australian government support an industry that results in Australians losing jobs in the meat processing industry?
- How often is the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) present at Australian Ports for the loading of animals to ensure the Australia Standards for the Export of Livestock are being adhered to by live exporters?
- Why does Australia continue with live exports, when there are a number of independent economic studies that demonstrate that if live exports were phased out, animals processed domestically could actually provide a better economic scenario for Australia. You can make mention of the following reports (makes you look knowledgeable and well-read on the subject which impresses the reader and means that you are less likely to be fobbed off!):
  - The ACIL Tasman (2009) The Value of Live Sheep Exports from Western Australia. A review of the adjustments that would be required if live exports ceased from WA
  - The ACIL Tasman (2009) Economic Analysis of Australian Live Sheep and Sheep Meat Trade
  - SG Heilbron Economic & Policy Consulting (2010) The future of the Queensland Beef Industry and the Impact of Live Cattle Exports

Make specific mention of the motion for mandatory stunning that wasn't passed recently – instead it has been watered down to “encouraging” stunning. Tell your MP that this isn't good enough!

A Bill soon to be submitted to Parliament by independent MP Andrew Wilkie to mandate stunning in the live export trade will give all federal MPs another opportunity to vote on this

important issue. Your Federal MP needs to be reminded how critical this issue is to you and many thousands of other Australians.

Politicians need our votes so advise your MP that you will not vote for a party that will not use its power to end the suffering of animals in the live export trade.

There's lots of information on the Stop Live Exports website, as well as on the Animals Australia, the RSPCA and the WSPA ones. The more facts you have, the more confident you feel in your arguments.

Keep the letter short and ask two questions maximum.

Ensure you are polite at all times.

Hand written letters can be just as effective. Try and send via mail rather than email.

When you get a response, if they haven't answered your questions, send a polite response asking for your questions to be answered. They are just wishing you will go away quietly at this stage.

If you get another letter that is still not answering the questions, write again until you get a proper response.

Please send a copy of your letter and responses to [sandie@stopliveexports.org](mailto:sandie@stopliveexports.org) or Stop Live Exports, PO Box 499, Fremantle WA 6959.

If you need a hand, contact Sandie at [sandie@stopliveexports.org](mailto:sandie@stopliveexports.org)