

## Loss of jobs in Australia

The Australian Meat Industry Employees Union is opposed to live animal export because it has led to the closure of slaughterhouses in Australia. The AMIEU says that over the past 20 years around 150 regional meat processing plants have closed due to a shortage of sheep for slaughter.

A report by Dr Heilbron, a respected senior business economist, concluded that the live export trade cost Australia around \$1.5 billion in lost GDP, \$270 million in household income and 10,500 lost jobs. When meat processing workers lose their jobs, families may have to move and no longer support the economy of rural towns. There is a widespread effect when jobs are transferred from Australia to the Middle East.



*An Animals Australia investigator witnesses home slaughter. A fully conscious sheep had its throat cut in a shower.*

The Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare back in 1985 recommended that the Australian Government "promote and encourage the expansion of the refrigerated sheep meat trade to the Middle East and other countries, with the aim of eventually substituting it for the live sheep trade." It is high time for the government to implement this recommendation. The cruel live sheep trade must stop.

## What can I do?

- Go to the Animals Australia website and find out more ([www.liveexport-indefensible.com](http://www.liveexport-indefensible.com)).
- Write to the Federal Minister for Agriculture and the Prime Minister in Canberra and tell them why you want this cruel trade stopped.
- Join Animal Liberation and support our campaigns to improve the treatment of all animals.

*All photos in this leaflet were taken by Animals Australia during several investigations into the fate of Australian sheep in the Middle East.*

I would like to become a supporter of Animal Liberation and enclose the following membership payment and/or donation:

- Individual – \$30       Life – \$500  
 Household – \$35       Library/School – \$50  
 Concession – \$20       Small Business – \$50

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to donate to Animal Liberation SA.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payable \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Payment: Please debit my

- Bankcard       VISA       Mastercard

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PostCode: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Sheep suffer in live export



## The live export trade must stop

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## Millions of sheep suffer and die

In 2006, over 4 million sheep were exported to the Middle East, and over 36,000 animals died on the ships. Since the live trade started in 1981, over 2.5 million sheep have died en route.

About 50 percent of the casualties die because they stop eating. Sheep who have always eaten grass or hay may refuse to eat the pellets provided on ships. Other problems include infections, diarrhoea and injuries. The dusty environment can cause eye problems that lead to blindness. As far back as 1985, a Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare concluded that on animal welfare grounds the live export trade should be stopped.

## Disasters at sea cost many lives

Apart from 'normal' deaths, there have been disasters which cost tens of thousands of lives. In 1980, and again in 1996, sheep ships caught fire and over 100,000 sheep either burned to death or drowned. In 1981 and 1990, ventilation systems in ships failed and close to 20,000 sheep died of heat stroke. In 1985, 15,000 sheep died of heat exhaustion. In 1989-1990 and again in 2003, Saudi Arabia refused to accept sheep shipments. Sheep were stranded at sea for many weeks, and up to 10 percent of them died.



## Cruelty in the Middle East



Sheep suffer further distress after unloading. Some are transported directly to slaughterhouses, some are kept in feedlots, and some are sold for home slaughter. It can be 50 degrees, and around 3 percent of sheep in feedlots die. Sheep for home slaughter are dragged, tied and stuffed into car boots or onto roof racks. There are very few if any laws to protect animals in Middle Eastern countries. All sheep have their throat cut while they are fully conscious, so they feel terrible pain and the terror of bleeding to death. Australia has no control over how animals are treated in other countries.



## Meat export - a more humane alternative

Sheep could be exported as chilled or frozen carcasses, saving the sheep the suffering of a long voyage and slaughter in the Middle East.

Australia has around 40 halal export slaughterhouses, overseen by Muslim officials who are licensed by importing countries. Islamic leaders in Australia allow electrical stunning of sheep prior to slaughter so that the sheep is unconscious when the throat is cut. Electrical stunning meets Islamic requirements because the animal is still alive and is unmarked.

Australia's total meat exports are worth far more than live sheep exports. The following are dollar values for total exports in 2006-7:

Lamb	\$779.2 million
Mutton	\$474.2 million
Live sheep	\$289.6 million

Even in Saudi Arabia, the largest market for live sheep, meat made up 45 percent of the total trade in 2006-7:

Lamb	\$11.9 million
Mutton	\$73.6 million
Live sheep	\$104.9 million

One reason given for shipping live animals is that there is no refrigeration in the Middle East. This is nonsense, since the figures show that Saudi Arabia alone bought over \$85 million dollars worth of refrigerated meat. These are oil-rich countries that have large shopping malls. The Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading Company, which is a major importer of live Australian sheep, sells frozen microwavable meals and processed products made from these sheep. These products could have been manufactured in Australia.