

Tony Sally Boyle

From: Rosemary Edwards [mr_edwards@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 9 November 2012 10:16 AM
To: Tony Boyle
Subject: Fw: City of Fremantle - council resolution on Live Animal Exports from Fremantle Port

----- Original Message -----

From: [Sharron Kent](#)
To: mr_edwards@bigpond.com
Cc: [Brad Pettitt](#)
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2012 4:30 PM
Subject: City of Fremantle - council resolution on Live Animal Exports from Fremantle Port

Dear Max,

In response to your request this afternoon and my subsequent phone call to provide you with the City's policy (stance) on live animal exports through the Fremantle Port, I paste below the resolution of council from the 26 May 2010 ordinary council meeting.

As I said I have forwarded your phone number and message to Mayor Brad Pettitt. Should the Mayor have anything further he would like to add I'm sure he will be happy to chat to you about it.

Kind Regards,

Sharron Kent

Governance project officer
Governance services
Elected member support officer
Elected member and executive support
City of Fremantle
T 08 9432 9799
E sharronk@fremantle.wa.gov.au

City of Fremantle

Town hall centre
8 William Street Fremantle WA 6160
PO Box 807 Fremantle WA 6959
T 08 9432 9999 F 08 9430 4634 TTY (08) 9432 9777
www.fremantle.wa.gov.au

SGS1005-4 NOTICE OF MOTION - PHASE OUT OF THE LIVE ANIMAL EXPORT TRADE (MAYOR PETTITT AND CR JOSH WILSON)

DataWorks Reference: 097/004

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Decision Making Authority: Council

BACKGROUND

More than 80 per cent of the nearly 4 million Australian sheep exported in 2006 were loaded in Western Australia, predominantly through the port of Fremantle. (ABARE Feb 2008). The transportation of animals causes stress, trauma, injuries, disease, pain, suffering and death. In 2008, 35,000 sheep died due to starvation, stress and disease. Australian animals are exported to countries that have no animal welfare laws or provisions. Investigations by Animals Australia undertaken in five Middle Eastern countries revealed extreme cruelty inflicted during transportation, holding, handling and slaughter. For every live animal exported, a number of Australian jobs in the meat industry and

downstream processing are also exported. Many of these jobs are in rural areas where there are few employment alternatives.

There is the opportunity for the City of Fremantle to take a leadership role calling for the phase out of this trade and working with other spheres of Government, industry and the community to develop strategies to support this policy. This is not about shifting the trade from the port of Fremantle to another location. This is about ending the live export trade and replacing it with chilled meat product.

A recent report commissioned by the World Society for the Protection of Animals show that an additional 2000 jobs would be created if sheep were processed in WA and also that a sheep processed in WA is worth about \$20 more to gross State product than a sheep sent overseas for slaughter. This reports shows that Halal meat exports are a viable alternative to the live trade; the current value of chilled/frozen sheep meat to many Muslim countries exceeds the value of live sheep exported from Australia.

In addition trade distortions in foreign countries benefit the live export trade over the domestic meat processing industry. The import of live Australian sheep is heavily subsidised by some Middle Eastern governments, whilst frozen sheep meat attracts a 5% tariff in most major Australian live sheep importing countries. Within Australia distortions also apply. A WA Ministerial Taskforce commissioned in 2004 to examine the concerns of the cattle and sheep meat processing sectors in the Western Australia found that, "the growth in live exports, at the expense of meat processing firms, is at least partly due to a lack of competitive neutrality and an apparent bias in Government support for the live export trade, while meat processing is disadvantaged by additional costs that are not imposed on exporters". A report commissioned by the Australian Meat Processor Corporation in 2001 concluded that the 'live export trade could be costing Australia around \$1.5 billion in lost GDP, around \$270 million in household income, and around 10,500 lost jobs.'

The growth in live exports has contributed to a decline in the meat-processing sector in some regions of Australia. The Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (AMIEU) reported that in the last 30 years, the meat processing industry has suffered the loss of 40,000 jobs and 150 processing plants. The meat processing industry blames the string of recent abattoir closures on low stock supply because of the drought, and a high Australian dollar. The union representing meat workers says live exports are to blame. AMIEU federal secretary Brian Crawford says 10,000 people have lost their jobs over the past several decades because of live animal exports.
(<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/vic/content/2010/02/s2810247.htm>)

A report, commissioned by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), explored the value of live sheep exports from WA. The report concluded that the adjustment costs and the impact on farmers would be modest if the trade is phased out over 5 years and a transferable quote system is implemented to manage the gradual reduction in the number of sheep available for live export over that period.

VOTING AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority Required

RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Fremantle;

1. Support steps towards the immediate phase out of the live animal export trade
2. Makes representations to the relevant State and Commonwealth Ministers in support of a clear plan and timetable for making the transition away from live export in favour of an onshore processing industry
3. Call on the Commonwealth Government to;
 - a) Pursue, as part of trade negotiations, the elimination of policies of foreign governments, such as subsidies and tariffs, that distort competitive neutrality between the meat processing and the live export industries
 - b) Take an interim action to 'level the playing field' to correct the distorting effects of its policies on the competitive neutrality between the meat processing sector and the live export sector
 - c) Assist industry to expand domestic processing capacity by increasing investment in domestic infrastructure to support a trade in chilled and frozen meat
 - d) Work with industry and importing countries to promote the trade in chilled meat from animals humanely transported and slaughtered in Australia and;
 - e) Promote Australian chilled and frozen meat in potential new markets through intensive international promotional campaigns.
4. Request the West Australian Minister for Local Government be called on to immediately reinstate the inspectorial positions within the Animal Welfare Branch within the Department of Local Government.

5. Participate in and support a symposium with representation from the live export industry, the chilled meat trade, relevant unions, animal welfare groups and State and Federal Government to develop an action plan to phase out the trade whilst ensuring that Australian jobs and regional communities are not disadvantaged.

Cr D Coggin moved an amendment to the Officer's Recommendation to include the following wording:

That the City of Fremantle;

1. *Adopts an advocacy position to support steps towards the immediate phase out of the live animal export trade*
2. Makes representations to the relevant State and Commonwealth Ministers in support of a clear plan and timetable for making the transition away from live export in favour of an onshore processing industry
3. Call on the Commonwealth Government to;
 - a) Pursue, as part of trade negotiations, the elimination of policies of foreign governments, such as subsidies and tariffs, that distort competitive neutrality between the meat processing and the live export industries *but respects the need of underdeveloped countries to establish their own self-sufficiency in food production*
 - b) Take an interim action to 'level the playing field' to correct the distorting effects of its policies on the competitive neutrality between the meat processing sector and the live export sector
 - c) Assist industry to expand domestic processing capacity by increasing investment in domestic infrastructure to support a trade in chilled and frozen meat
 - d) Work with industry and importing countries to promote the trade in chilled meat from animals humanely transported and slaughtered in Australia and;
 - e) Promote Australian chilled and frozen meat in potential new markets through intensive international promotional campaigns.
4. Request the West Australian Minister for Local Government be called on to immediately reinstate the inspectorial positions within the Animal Welfare Branch within the Department of Local Government.
5. Participate in and support a symposium with representation from the live export industry, the chilled meat trade, relevant unions, animal welfare groups and the State and Federal Government to develop an action plan to phase out the trade whilst ensuring that Australian jobs and regional communities are not disadvantaged.
6. *That the Mayor communicates this resolution to key stakeholders*

CARRIED: 12/0

For	Against
Mayor, Brad Pettitt	
Georgie Adeane	
Cr John Dowson	
Cr Robert Fittock	
Cr Josh Wilson	
Cr John Alberti	
Cr Tim Grey-Smith	
Cr Sam Wainwright	
Cr Bill Massie	
Cr Dave Coggin	
Cr Andrew Sullivan	
Cr Doug Thompson	

Australia's longest running festival, the Fremantle Festival, begins Sunday 28 October and runs every day until Sunday 11 November | download a program at www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/festivals.

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