



# Common-sense should prevail on live cattle trade debate

AGRICULTURAL Region MLC Brian Ellis has called for the federal government to use common-sense and compromise to keep the live cattle trade industry functioning.

“Like everyone else who has seen the videos of animal cruelty in some Indonesian abattoirs, I was appalled and disgusted,” Mr Ellis said.

“As a farmer who has processed my own sheep for family meat I know there is a right way and a wrong way to handle animals.

“However, I understand that there are some abattoirs in Indonesia which already use stun guns and satisfy Australian handling standards.

“For the sake of producers whose incomes are at risk, I implore the federal government to consider a compromise to at least allow export to those approved facilities while a broader solution is implemented.

“My overwhelming preference is that Australian cattle only be shipped to sites where stun guns are used.

“However, I recognise that this is not likely to occur in some of the smaller abattoirs where only a few cattle are processed each day and I support the suggestion of the president of the United Beef Breeders Association that tipping cradles could be installed to humanely immobilise those animals.

“The cradles are sturdy, easy to transport, need little maintenance, simple to operate, and don’t require a power supply.

“A permanent, expanded Australian inspectorial service should also be set in place to routinely monitor handling and halal procedures.

“I recognise that the federal government is trying to buy some time to come up with an overall solution, but in the meantime producers are hurting and cattle still need to be fed and maintained.

“Surely a sensible and humane compromise involving approved facilities is not too much to ask to keep the industry moving in the interim.”



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**Common sense:** Member for the Agricultural Region Member Brian Ellis. Like many politicians and industry groups, he has called for common sense on the live trade debate and urged the government to resume supply to accredited abattoirs in Indonesia.