Case study – Live cattle export to Indonesia.

One of Australia’s biggest live cattle export destinations is Indonesia. Australia exports cattle to Indonesia because they do not have enough resources to efficiently supply the country’s population with the ever important source of iron that comes from red meat. ………….

The cattle are usually exported to Indonesia from Darwin (NT) or Broome (WA) via either boat or plane. The cattle have people to care for them while on their voyages and have plenty of food and water, this means that over 99% of the cattle arrive fit and healthy in Indonesia. When the cattle arrive to Indonesia they are unloaded off the boats and into drafting pens. They are then transported to feedlots where they are kept from a few days up to a few months, to fatten up. Once the cattle look like they have enough beef on them, they are sent to abattoirs.

At almost all abattoirs the cattle are killed humanly then they are turned into the cuts of beef we so enjoy. On the 7th of June 2011, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Senator Joe Ludwig, banned the live animal exports to Indonesia for inhumane slaughter in some abattoirs.. The decision was made because of a leaked video footage of cattle being inhumanly killed in a small fraction of the abattoirs.

Although the live export was only suspended for a short frame of time, it was a major setback to all beef farmers who export regularly, because it came without warning and was incredibly exaggerated to the point where some of the footage was 4 years old. The government is claiming that they are working closely with Indonesia to insure a sustainable future in cattle export.

Australian animal’s welfare experts regularly deliver training and education programs to the feedlots so the stockmen can care for the cattle efficiently, and safely, so we do not have a repeat of the suspension.