

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

Tuesday May 31, 2011

Humane treatment of animals a must

Images of unacceptable cattle slaughter procedures in Indonesian abattoirs have raised public outcry and questions about the live cattle export trade.

State agriculture spokesman Adrian Pederick said the procedures shown were barbaric and could not be justified in any way.

'I must express my deep concern at what was presented on ABC television,' Mr Pederick said.

'I appreciate there are significant cultural and religious differences in other countries that must be respected.

'Nevertheless, our involvement as suppliers of livestock, slaughter equipment and training places some responsibility on us to insist on humane standards and procedures such as the use of stun guns, which can be used in accordance with Halal requirements.

'We cannot dictate what goes on in other countries but just as we accept the cultural and religious needs of other countries, they must accept that as a supplier, we also have cultural and moral standards to observe.

'In order for us to maintain an acceptable and viable live animal export trade, we need to ensure our trading partners take our needs into account and apply best practice for the humane treatment of those animals.

'To that end we should certainly not supply animals to any facility not adhering to these procedures.

'It should be understood that we are the only country in the world to provide direct support and assistance to other countries to address these issues.

'Australia leads the world in the treatment of animals within its borders. Our association with these practices elsewhere places our international reputation at risk. The federal government must take the necessary steps to protect that reputation.'