

Hon Andrew Hoggard

Minister for Biosecurity
Minister for Food Safety
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills)
Associate Minister for the Environment



MIN24-0973

Dr Bidida Jones
By email: bidida.jones@allianceforanimals.org.au

Dear Dr Jones,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, regarding livestock exports by sea. Your correspondence has been transferred to me for response because the matters you raise fall under my portfolio responsibilities as Associate Minister of Agriculture.

The Government is committed to reversing the ban on livestock exports by sea, while ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare. Central to this is protecting the welfare of the animals exported, ensuring that New Zealand's reputation as a responsible exporter is protected, and that we meet our international trade obligations.

The Government will introduce legislation changes to reinstate the trade, enhance oversight, and strengthen the requirements for exporters to identify risks and manage the welfare of livestock exported by sea. There will be targeted consultation to understand how best to achieve high animal welfare throughout the process of exporting livestock by sea. The ban on export for slaughter will remain in place.

Livestock exports (bovine) by sea contributed \$374 million to New Zealand's economy in 2022 and are valued by our trading partners to improve their breeding genetics, and support their food security goals. The trade also provides vital income to New Zealand, and the Government must also consider the economic benefits to farmers and rural communities. Continuing the trade will provide additional export and income opportunities for farmers, benefiting New Zealand's economy and rural communities, while ensuring that any shipments take place with the highest standards and uphold our international reputation as a responsible exporter of animals for breeding purposes.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) amendments will go through the Parliamentary process, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on any legislative proposals when a Bill is considered by select committee.

I have noted your comments around the footage of cattle broadcast on 20 November. I am advised that many of the photographs and videos shown during this broadcast do not appear to be originating from New Zealand.

We know New Zealanders value the ethical treatment of animals. Ensuring we have good animal welfare standards is important to animals, important to New Zealanders, and important for our economy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Hoggard', written in a cursive style.

Hon Andrew Hoggard
Associate Minister of Agriculture