SATURDAY EXTRA

Stop cruelty in beef export

CHRIS DeROSE, President and founder of Last Chance for Animals

Australia's Government refuses to listen to its people. Every day countless Australians ask the Government to end the cruel and inhumane live animal export trade.

But Parliament doesn't care enough to respond and, as a result, the global community thinks Australia has aligned itself with barbarity. Much to the country's shame, Prime Minister Julia Gillard's animal welfare framework failed. The live export industry continues to expand into new markets with full knowledge that routine slaughter practices in importing countries fall well below standards expected by the Australian people and the global community. New footage and reports of exporters, transporters, and slaughterhouses allowing animal abuse on a level the international community rejects pours out of Indonesia, Turkey, and the Middle East. Adding insult to injury, industry trade group Meat & Livestock Australia makes a concerted effort to convince Australians and the world that, "Australia has become an international leader in the development of industry welfare standards and guidelines."

With a government actively ignoring its people and industry leaders who care more about profits than morality, this attempt at propaganda would be laughable if it wasn't so offensive. Having lived in Australia and returned many times, it angers me to see this group assuming Australians are so stupid and gullible.

One of Australia's most distinguished families, the Murdochs, publicly condemned the live export trade as unethical and bad for long-term business growth. Rupert Murdoch told me in person he does...