

LIVE EXPORT **HURTS** MEAT WORKERS



GET THE **FACTS** ON THIS
JOB-DESTROYING TRADE.



Right now in Australia, the meat industry is rebuilding after severe drought conditions.

Successive years of drought have forced farmers to quit livestock that is needed to maintain the national sheep flock and beef herd at levels that ensure supply to all markets.

This situation caused the meat industry processing and live export industries to move into overdrive to cope with the oversupply of livestock being sent to market.

Now farmers are in the restocking phase and the opposite applies, where meatworkers and live exporters must compete for the vastly reduced numbers of livestock available to process.

The sheep and lamb industry has now seen closures of meatworks across the country and a large-scale winding back of other operations in response to the limited supply.

The beef industry has seen the same winding back as the sheep and lamb sector but is predicted to take much longer to recover.

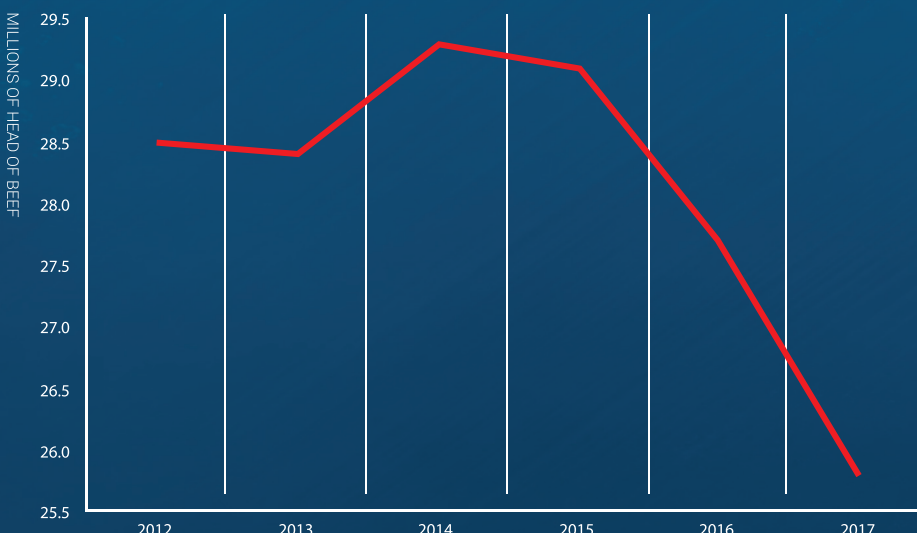
You can see from the chart below that the national beef herd has plummeted to a level that cannot supply enough replacement stock to process high volumes through the meatworks or via live exporting.

In simple terms, a herd of 29 million head of cattle can reproduce enough offspring to maintain a supply of 10 million head for slaughter or export.

At 26 million head, the supply reduces to 9 million. To pick up the 3 million head shortfall and increase back to a herd of 29 million means more must be withheld by farmers leaving even less (around 600,000 head) available to process.

Around 600,000 per year are required in the calf market. The remainder are split between processing through meatworks and the live trade. Australian meatworks can, and have, processed 9.5 million head a year which, between the sheep and beef sectors, employs around 33,000 workers directly in the meatworks.

There are then other indirect jobs generated from the meatworks that increase with the increased volumes through the meatworks.



These include tanneries, hide stores, pet food operations, freezing works, offal processors, gut processors, transporters and so on. The indirect jobs also number in the thousands, along with flow on effects that are normally calculated at seven times the number of direct jobs!

And then there is the flow-on effect of having wages spent in local communities.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CATTLE GO MISSING?



ONE MILLION HEAD OF CATTLE



3,000 DIRECT MEAT WORKING JOBS

Most meatworks are in regional towns which thrive because of the money generated from the meatworks. As work at the meatworks slows down and shifts are lost, those communities feel the loss in the local businesses.

In the beef sector, we can readily assess that **each million head that is unavailable for the meatworks to process equates to around 3,000 direct jobs!** And that's not counting the flow on to indirect jobs and the local communities.

The live export trade increased to well over a million head per annum for the past couple of years. It has dropped back to a little below a million head in 2017 but their aim is to expand the live trade as much as possible.

Gina Rinehart has bought up vast cattle stations across Australia and intends to export as many as she can as live animal trade.

The processing sector will only get to process around 7.5 million head this year. That's around 6,000 direct meatworker jobs on the line!

It is a simple fact that the more animals that go out from Australia in live trade, the less animals there are to process in Australian meatworks which then costs your jobs, and your communities health.

Make no mistake, increasing live exports hurts Australian workers, hurts Australian processors, hurts Australian businesses, and hurts Australian communities!

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT LIVE EXPORT

MYTH: The live trade is good for the Australian economy.

FACT: The spin to this is that all trade is good for the economy. What they don't tell you is that processing in Australian meatworks is better. Why? Because of the vast number of jobs generated to process the animals into meat for human consumption, which well and truly outnumber the jobs created by the live export trade.

MYTH: The live export trade generates 10,000 Australian jobs.

FACT: This is simply spin, and to be frank is untrue. Australian farmers raise cattle and sheep for sale at the best price. If there was little or no live trade then most of the animals would go to the abattoirs. The farmers who supply the live trade are counted in the creation of jobs in the live export industry but in fact they are the same jobs that apply to the processing side through meatworks. The drivers who transport the cattle and sheep to the port to be loaded onto ships are the same jobs that apply to driving the

animals to the meatworks. At this point the choice is to go to the port and be loaded by a handful of workers who are already employed to load all kinds of freight in any event, or to go to the meatworks where thousands of jobs are created. In reality, the number of jobs created *specifically because of the live export industry* are negligible.

MYTH: What's good for the farmer is good for Australia.

FACT: This old adage comes from an era when the farmers fed the country. These days the farms are large conglomerates who trade in many ways both within and outside of Australia. On top of that Australia now imports an ever-growing amount of food from other countries. Whilst we have no issue with farmers making a profit, it needs to be pointed out that monies achieved from the sale of livestock overseas benefit only a small number of people, whereas processing through Australian meatworks generates money that is spread and spent throughout the community by a much larger number of people.

MYTH: Some animals are raised specifically for the live export market.

FACT: This is true of a small number of animals. In the business of making money however, farmers will grow animals for sale at the best price and whoever pays it will get them. Simple fact.

MYTH: Wages and conditions in the meatworks make them uncompetitive.

FACT: This is simply untrue, and the alternative is dire. Meatworkers earn a wage that recognises the damn long hours, hard work and unsociable start and finishing times that they work. The alternative – live export – takes Australian livestock offshore for processing in unregulated labour markets where animal welfare, wages, workers rights and occupational health and safety are low priorities for many of those abattoirs.