



20 May 2015

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Latest poll shows the majority of voters want live export stopped

Responding to the revelations of Australian cattle being beaten to death with sledgehammers in Vietnam, Prime Minister Tony Abbott today said that the Labor Government's decision in 2011 to temporarily stop live exports was "probably the most short-sighted blunder in Australian foreign policy in recent memory". He stated categorically that the current government would not be suspending the live export trade.

However, a poll carried out in January this year for Vets Against Live Export (VALE) has revealed that a majority of voters want the government to stop live export of animals. UMR Research surveyed over a thousand voters Australia wide and found that 59% of those questioned disapproved of live exports. There was a very strong bias amongst women against live export, with 75% wanting to see the trade banned.

The poll also revealed that 72% of respondents wanted mandatory penalties imposed when there were breaches of the law by live exporters, and 81% of those polled wanted independent veterinarians on every live export voyage.

The conclusion is that once again Prime Minister Abbott is completely out of step with the wishes of the majority of Australian voters. VALE spokesperson Dr Sue Foster said: "Not only is live export bad for animal welfare, but it is bad for the Australian economy. It is clear from recent figures and from statements by key live export players that the live export trade is determined to expand at the expense of the far more profitable meat processing sector. Perhaps Prime Minister Abbott needs to bear this in mind as he tries to fix the economy and contemplates the next election."

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