

**15-August-2025**

**Response from Dr Lynn Simpson,**

Tragically, written reports are rarely as confrontational or impactful as images; people struggle to imagine the scene, the suffering, the pain, the frustration, the intentional cruelty, the sounds and smells. Or, as with the ships I sailed on, the overwhelming scale of suffering and the limitation of resources available to help the animals stuck in these hostile environments.

When regulatory chains fail, imagery is essential to get the message understood, and hopefully acted on.

My written live export concerns were essentially ignored for over a decade. Only when the government released my photographs of animal suffering was attention gained, and action began.

Images are powerful, undeniable and crucial for true understanding and accountability.

CCTV unfortunately should be mandatory in all areas where vulnerable animals and people are at risk of mistreatment.

Having images of cruelty exposed publicly is critical when tackling a failing system. In my experience exposing cruelty visually has been the catalyst to reform and reducing suffering. To bury or hide images such as those captured by Farm Transparency Project of animal cruelty is irresponsible and shows a lack of empathy to those who have suffered.

Images are also amazing teaching tools and can be used as great disincentives for future crimes.

The order to suppress this footage has done nothing but publicly highlight the regulators failings and their choice to embrace a further lack of transparency.



This footage should never be suppressed; it is needed to do the job of improving animal welfare where the regulators have failed. CCTV, unfortunately should be mandatory in all areas where vulnerable animals and people are at risk of mistreatment, abattoirs, childcare centres, nursing homes.

This Federal Court decision is nothing short of 'shooting the messenger'. I suspect it will backfire and simply 'put a fire underneath' anyone determined to expose cruelty.

People who expose such cruelty will and do continue to do so to their own detriment, the passion and bold commitment to improving the experiences of the vulnerable in our society should be harnessed and utilised by our regulators and authorities, not extinguished.

Nothing on the planet has ever changed and improved without a few people starting to highlight the wrongs. Animal cruelty needs to be highlighted, not buried.

Animal cruelty in abattoirs is rarely limited to animal suffering. Abattoir workers are recognised as at high risk for developing addiction and domestic violence issues. Poor regulation of animal mistreatment is well known to end up developing into greater societal and criminal activity. This is an issue that needs to be addressed before it can happen, early education about cruelty, respect for others and the ability to manage one's own anger, volatility and insecurities- only a bully deliberately hurts animals.

In the face of failing regulation, animals unwittingly rely on exposes of horror to protect them and their kind from future harm.

If regulators were truly effective, concerned citizens would not feel the need to take matters into their own hands - this is on them.