

# PIVOTAL BOOK REVEALS INSIDE STORY OF AUSTRALIA'S CONFLICT OVER LIVE EXPORTS



Finlay Lloyd

Tuesday, 1 March, 2016

*Backlash: Australia's conflict of values over live exports* will be launched at the National Library of Australia this evening.

Written by Dr Bidda Jones (head of science and strategy at RSPCA Australia) and Julian Davies (writer, and publisher at Finlay Lloyd), *Backlash* examines the drama surrounding the Gillard government's 2011 decision to suspend the live export trade to Indonesia. The book also documents the hidden political backstory of the trade, revealing the failure of government and industry to build ethical evaluation into their decision-making processes.

'In campaigning against live exports, I've witnessed abuses of our animals and our political processes that have shocked me to the core,' said Dr Bidda Jones.

'Backlash had to be written because it is time the continuing failures of this industry and our government to protect animals from cruelty are fully explained to the Australian public.

'The government goes on encouraging this inhumane business model when most Australians don't support the live export trade and most farmers have no involvement in it.

'The live trade is damaging meat exports by competing for livestock and putting at risk jobs that value add to our economy. At Teys meat works in Rockhampton 50 workers have recently been laid off and at JBS's Townsville plant 580 workers have had no work this year.'

'The live export industry has developed over decades without public transparency, ethical oversight, or proper government regulation,' said Julian Davies.

'Without real consent, the Australian people have been co-opted to a trade with enormous animal welfare costs and serious reputational risks for us as a trading nation.

It's astounding that industry spin asserts that live exports are indispensable when our meat trade already supplies all its markets and is seven times as valuable.

'The future for Australia's livestock industries is in humane, ethical and sustainable animal production. Live exports have no place in that future.'

*Backlash* will be launched by ABC *Four Corners* host, Sarah Ferguson, and independent MP, Andrew Wilkie, at the National Library in Canberra – 6.00 for 6.30pm.

Backlash is available at independent bookshops throughout Australia (listed at [finlaylloyd.com](http://finlaylloyd.com))

For more information or to arrange an interview with the authors, please contact:

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