

PHASE OUT OF LIVE EXPORT OF SHEEP

We applaud the Albanese Labour government for agreeing to phase out live sheep exports by sea, however it is very disappointing to hear that this will not be in the government's first term. Delaying this timeframe cannot now guarantee the phase out process and termination of live export unless the government is re-elected for a second term. The process for phase out of live export by sea must begin as soon as possible - within this current term.

Live export of all animals is a practice that most Australians find abhorrent. It is now well established that animals on export ships endure horrific conditions at sea only to arrive for slaughter at countries with even lower animal welfare standards.

It is inaccurate to state that Muslim countries require live animals for local consumption. Halal processing of animals would, however, need to be considered for onshore killing.

The only acceptable (if that is the word) way to continue this meat export is to transfer the live export industry to one using the meat of animals killed at facilities in Australia. This would require dedicated resources from industry and government to build more abattoirs in strategic places for animal farmers to readily access.

This lack of abattoirs was a justification put to me by a local Liberal MP for supporting the live export trade....even when the existing export trade of chilled meat at that time raised approximately four times the revenue raised by the live trade.

Building more abattoirs (although abhorrent to me personally) would not only enable the live export farmers to 'process' their animals in a better way, but provide employment for many more local people.

The type and extent of support farmers receive during this transition would be crucial to its success. Support for farmers to transition to alternative livelihoods eg. to a plant-based agriculture, may also be an desirable outcome.