

To:

Firstly I would like to express my strong support for phasing out of live sheep exports. This needs to occur as soon as possible. There is no reason, scientifically, economically or ethically for the trade to remain. The industry has been in massive, irreversible decline for 20 years.

Every month that passes, thousands more animals are suffering.

Surveying has shown that the vast majority of Australians, both metropolitan and regionally based, support an end to the trade. It is inherently cruel and does not provide local producers with certainty.

It does not allow for Australian law to protect our Australian animals as we expect.

The industry has repeatedly for decades flaunted the law and despite many significant breaches, loss of life – both animal and human, has managed to be granted incorrectly approved permits and manipulate previous governments in allowing it to continue.

With other progressive countries announcing bans, most recently Brazil, plus our New Zealand neighbours, Germany, UK, Luxemborg and it's even being considered in Romania amongst other countries. Its past the time for Australia to end the trade.

I acknowledge this particular commitment is only to end the live sheep trade however I would like to take this opportunity to say that the cattle trade experiences all the same inherent issues (extreme temperatures, poor on ship conditions, lack of ventilation, lack of feed and water...the list is ongoing) and, like the sheep trade, also needs to be phased out as a matter of urgency. Cattle suffer no less than sheep.

I find it concerning information about live export found on the Agriculture departments website is not factually correct. One extract for example that can be found here:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/export-trade>

Suggestions that the live trade could be completely replaced by chilled and frozen meat fails to take into account the requirements of the market. While Australia has developed a significant trade in meat products, the lack of refrigeration and cold chain facilities, as well as strong cultural preferences for freshly slaughtered meat precludes Australia from servicing all of its export markets with processed meat products.

This statement is not factually correct. A review undertaken in 2011 by Market Vision Research & Consulting Services, a company based in Dubai, noted that in the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain there was near-universal household ownership of refrigerators, at 99.5%. Freezers also have a high penetration (73%), among households. This figure would have only grown along with the wealth in these countries over the last decade.

It would assist the phase out process if the government produced factually correct information regarding the industry during this consultation and phase out period.

Additionally, given the chilled meat trade is significantly bigger than the live trade, this is clearly also not true that there is a strong cultural preference for freshly slaughtered animals.

I absolutely thank the government for fulfilling your election promise. I believe it was a strong reason for many to change their voting habits.

In summary, I request that: **the phase out date for live sheep exports be legislated and plans commenced in this term of government to secure the end of the trade.**

Yours sincerely

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