

**Submission on the Live Export of Australian Sheep – May 2023**

I am writing to say that I was so very pleased to hear the present Labor government pledge to phase out the live export of sheep by sea. I feel that this should be expanded to cover all livestock – these journeys are hellish and the animals suffer terribly to the point that many die on board.

Our animal welfare standards in Australia are governed by legislation such as Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts (POCTAA) and the Animal Research Act which ensure that animals that interact with humans for research purposes or as pets/wildlife, are all treated with compassion and respect.

These Live Export journeys do not comply with any of the Australian legislations – they simply cannot ensure that the animals are treated appropriately. Conditions on these boats are impossible to regulate – so animals suffer extreme heat, rough conditions where they might be flung around violently, lack of food and water, are susceptible to illnesses and disease and have no ability to move around.

They suffer many days at sea and if they do not die on the boat, they arrive extremely stressed and overwhelmed from the journey, just to be slaughtered, often inhumanely, at their destination.

For all these reasons, this move is a good one.

However, the phase out of live sheep by sea must be commenced as soon as possible. Every day that this practice continues, more and more sheep are suffering inexcusably.

This term of Parliament must see this legislated and written into the policy governing this industry.

Follow the lead of New Zealand and put in place the appropriate assistance to our farmers that rely on this income so that they no longer need to send their animals to this terrible end.

I believe that the only way for this industry to be able to stop, is for farmers to receive government assistance to transition to a world where they can ensure Australian livestock is slaughtered domestically and to the highest standards that are possible.

I believe that the Australian reputation for best practices in animal welfare and meat production can be upheld with the halting of Live Export practices and that this current Labor government is the one to make this happen.

The Australian people have had enough. We have witnessed ships lost at sea and the horror of knowing that thousands of these gentle animals have drowned, or heard about ships with onboard sickness that are stuck in 40 degree temperatures unable to dock. If anyone would have been on board and witnessed the conditions – and the suffering - I am sure this trade would have ended then and there.

Please do your best and make this happen – the sooner the better.

Our animals deserve respect.

Thank you and regards.

NSW Resident & Wildlife Advocate

