

Put an end to this despicable trade

Please put an end to live sheep exports. I voted for Labor in the last election, because of their promise to phase out live sheep exports. Please do it this term of government and as soon as possible.

I am devastated to hear over and over again of cruelty and serious animal welfare issues on livestock ships that are transporting Australian animals to overseas locations. The export of live animals for slaughter is inherently high-risk, with decades of repeated evidence of suffering and cruelty. From gruelling sea voyages to painful fully conscious slaughter, animals suffer at every stage of the journey.

The conditions animals experience during the journey itself, resulting in extensive suffering and high death rates and the treatment of animals once they reach the importing countries tarnish Australia's reputation and the reputation of our politicians and decision makers. An increasing number of people are becoming aware of these issues. If we had a referendum on this, the overwhelming majority of Australians would vote to ban this trade.

I am of course aware, that there is money generated at every step of the live animal export trade, but that should not and cannot justify the ill treatment of sentient beings. Many farmers have already stopped sending their animals overseas, but the ones who have not yet, could possibly receive help from the government during the transition period, where they can get help and find a more compassionate way to produce food. I am urging you to consider phasing out live sheep exports in favour of an increased trade in boxed and chilled meat from animals that have been slaughtered here in Australia. If New Zealand and the UK can do this, and the EU is working towards it why can't Australia?