

Submission: An end to live animal export

It is way past time that we stopped barbaric and backward practices such as live export of non-human animals. Growth for this country from renewable energy, ecotourism and ethical product design and implementation is where the smart money is and this country has the potential to be a world leader in addressing the climate crisis and providing a sustainable future for all, by phasing out such things as live animal export.

Sustainable farming of ecology appropriate plants is both more economical in the long run as well as providing a better option for ensuring biodiversity and the protection of native species i.e., planning for agricultural practices that do not destroy the environment. By investing in realistic “growth” areas such as sustainable agriculture, the practice of live sheep export could be swiftly phased out. It is a false economy to believe that financial growth is continually possible with processes that deplete the land, such as the agribusiness of “growing meat” for export. The damage that non-native animals make to the land in times of climate crisis only weakens the land for sustainable food production for an exponentially burgeoning population. This country just does not have the kind of ecology that can safely continue with the scale of meat production required to supply a local and an international market.

The long sea voyages required from this country surely must become cost prohibitive particularly to the Middle East. It would make more sense to set up sustainable trade in southeast Asia, and to ensure that the products are from sustainable sources.

To this end it is recommended that a relevant task force, or several decision-making bodies, are established that can oversee the change to renewable energy, reforestation industry and sustainable crop practices and the phase out of large-scale agriculture. The hope is that this could be reviewed quickly; we simply do not have the leisure to apply a long phase out. Old, outdated industries and practices are holding this country back.