

I am writing to submit my strong support for the phasing out of live sheep exports from a humane perspective. This submission highlights the inherent ethical concerns associated with the live export industry and emphasizes the urgent need to transition to more humane and sustainable practices. It is imperative that we prioritize the welfare of animals and align our practices with international standards and societal expectations.

**Animal Welfare Concerns:**

The live export of sheep by sea raises significant animal welfare concerns. The inherent nature of long-distance sea transport places sheep in stressful and often cruel conditions, including overcrowded pens, extreme temperatures, inadequate ventilation, and limited access to food and water. These factors can lead to increased mortality rates, dehydration, disease transmission, and distress, ultimately compromising the welfare of these sentient beings.

**International Standards and Public Opinion:**

There is a growing global consensus that live animal exports by sea are inherently inhumane and should be phased out. Many countries, including New Zealand, have already taken steps to ban or severely restrict live sheep exports due to animal welfare concerns. Furthermore, public opinion has shifted, with increasing numbers of individuals expressing their opposition to the live export industry. As a compassionate society, it is essential that we reflect these evolving values and take decisive action to address this issue.

**Ethical Responsibility:**

As custodians of animals, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure their welfare. It is our duty to protect and promote the Five Freedoms: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury, or disease, freedom to express normal behaviour, and freedom from fear and distress. The live export of sheep by sea fails to meet these fundamental ethical standards, and therefore, a phase-out is necessary to uphold our ethical obligations towards animals.

**Alternatives and Economic Opportunities:**

Phasing out live sheep exports by sea presents an opportunity to shift towards more humane and sustainable practices while simultaneously stimulating economic growth. By investing in domestic processing facilities, we can support the expansion of the sheep meat industry and create job opportunities within our own country. This transition will not only align with public sentiment and ethical principles but also provide economic benefits by increasing domestic value-adding, improving product quality, and expanding market access for processed sheep meat.

**International Reputation:**

Australia's reputation as a compassionate and responsible nation is at stake due to the live export industry's ethical concerns. By taking swift and decisive action to phase out live sheep exports by sea, we can demonstrate our commitment to animal welfare, align ourselves with international standards, and enhance our global reputation as a progressive and humane country.

In conclusion, it is evident that the live export of sheep by sea is incompatible with the ethical treatment of animals. We have a responsibility to prioritize the welfare of sentient beings and transition towards more humane practices. By phasing out live sheep exports, we can uphold our ethical obligations, align with international standards, and capitalize on economic opportunities in the domestic sheep meat industry. I urge you to consider these points and take the necessary steps to bring an end to this inhumane trade.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.