

Phase Out Of Live Sheep Exports By Sea

Submission **24th May 2023**

Animal Welfare:

The live export trade involves unacceptable suffering and cruelty. Sheep exported from Australia to the Middle East are sent on one of the world's longest sea journeys at 3-5 weeks, arriving in their summer where temperatures can reach over 40°C. The mortality rates on these voyages are approximately four times greater than for shorter voyages. In 2017, over 2000 sheep were killed on one voyage alone.

Ethical considerations:

The live export industry has been plagued by numerous cases of animal cruelty which have caused significant public outrage, both domestically and internationally. Cruelty on live export ships and overseas abattoirs continues with virtually no laws protecting animals in the countries they're sold to. They're often subjected to abuse and methods of slaughter that are illegal in Australia.

Environment:

Long distance by sea consumes large amounts of fossil fuels; phasing out aligns with Australia's goals to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

Transition:

The government has spent millions trying to reprimand an industry that systematically abuses animals to no avail. The sort of people who would work in such an industry inherently do *not* care about animal welfare. Any caring person would not want to be part of it.

The farmers need guidance on transitioning to alternative markets and financial aid in the interim. They need help to adapt to more compassionate livelihoods. This transition also opens up opportunities for the development of alternative industries and export markets. Australia could lead the way for ethically sourced products and the farmers can be a part of this.

Labor's Commitment:

Ending the live export of sheep has been a policy of the Labor party since 2018 and it was promised again in the last election. However Labor has now pushed back its ban saying it won't happen before 2025! Disappointed voters will soon find a party that does sincerely support animal welfare and the environment. The Government's decision to phase out live export by sea has support not only from animal welfare groups but also veterinarians and the general public. Live export is frowned upon internationally and puts our reputation and credibility at risk. Australia can lead the way in setting a new standard for responsible and compassionate agricultural practices, creating a positive image and inspiring other nations to follow suit.