

Dear Australian Government

**Re: live animal export**

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Labour government on its successes' so far and offer my ongoing support for you to realise further commitments.

***Ethics:***

One of the main reasons I voted for labour in the last election was that you were and are committed to stopping live animal export, and also support social and environmental wellbeing which I include animal welfare into. I also very much support the effect of policy on allowing the farming community to diversify into a more sustainable future.

When I moved to Australia 12 years ago I was genuinely shocked at the archaic and inhumane views, policy and lack of legal protection for animals and particularly farm animals. This does seem to have changed at all and is a great opportunity for Labour to elevate Australia and do the right thing. The quality of a developed country is its ability to support those less fortunate and without a voice. This includes animals. I believe that Labour is genuinely committed to this social development and has the opportunity to promote Australia in terms of local and international social care and responsibility.

Australians do want live export and other poor practices to end and want Australia to be viewed as a genuinely progressive country on the world stage rather than being embarrassed of what Australia stands for on so many fronts. My partner is from NZ and I feel far prouder of their actions in this space. Australia could catch up and advance this.

***Supporting Farmers & Policy:***

I come from a farming community, albeit in the UK, and understand the pressure that farmers face in terms of finances, climate, changing supply change and tastes and choices of consumers. This is even more pronounced in Australia due to the scale, climate and environmental disasters.

I am sure that farmers who have raised and cared for animals do not wish them to be crammed into torturous conditions on a ship where many die, and then onto countries with little or no governance, no welfare thoughts, horrific journeys and death in conditions that would not be legal even in Australia (with a poor level of animal welfare).

Farmers cannot magically transition without Government policy, legislative and financial support and education. Farming is a major contributor to global warming but also to other areas of environmental damage such as waterway pollution, use of nitrates and fertilizers, increased salination of ground and overuse of natural water supplies. Farmers see these effects on a day-to-day basis but need support, education and progressive policy to transition to more sustainable solutions. Many areas in Western Australia for example have long term government grazing leases for ground that does not support grazing and causes the land to further deteriorate. Farmers are not able to do anything other than graze due to lease conditions despite many wanting to move to other areas such as carbon neutral opportunities, sustainable tourism etc.

***Way Forward:***

Australia must consider both feeding the local population and also the strength of the export market. A compassionate and progressive picture is ultimately more profitable than a poor quality, cruel and archaic one.

Agriculture is a large industry for Australia and the overall picture encapsulates all farming practices. Many are not sustainable; farmers want change but need a pathway and support. As a tax payer I would very much support my contribution being spent on

agricultural development in all areas and phasing out live export entirely. To be credible for Labour this needs to be actioned now with a 1-2yr phase out for sheep and a 3-5year entire live export ban.

Australia needs to entirely rethink agricultural practices in Australia with a focus on the development of farming techniques that are sustainable, identify what produce is the most suited to the physical conditions in different areas of Australia (noting this might not be animals), revegetation of land, protection of water levels and clean waterways etc, this should also offer possibilities to move out of farming where appropriate.

This has to be a series of progressive short-, medium and long-term goals for the success of Australia and the phasing out of live export should be considered as short term to entirely phase out all export within 5 years.

Australia is a wealthy and beautiful country with a rich history. We can be seen as a global leader in many areas rather than a polluting, fossil fuel mining, greedy country driving V8 cars. Whilst this may have been the opportunistic somewhat selfish approach of early settlers, we are now 200 years on and need to start making our own way that is a positive one.

Please Labour, I implore you to do the right thing, the caring and kind thing, and the thing that most Australians want.

Best wishes

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