

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE PHASING OUT AND ENDING OF LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS BY SEA

Firstly, I would like to thank the Albanese government for commencing the phasing out of live animal exports.

I am writing in full support of the phase out of live sheep (animal) exports by sea and am asking the government to **commence this phase out as soon as it possibly can, and end the exports as soon as possible**, so fewer animals suffer.

A country and its society are judged by its values and principles towards the treatment of their animals, and embarrassingly Australia does not have a very good reputation in this area. As a fifth generation Australian this greatly saddens me as I think we are an exceptional country and that we can do so much better in the treatment of our animals.

I understand that farmers may suffer financial losses due to this and am hoping the government can support them in changing their 'product' to something less cruel, harmful and distressing (distressing not only sheep but to animal loving Australians of which there are millions).

My only reason for wanting to see an end to this cruel and barbaric practise is animal cruelty. I volunteer at a farm animal sanctuary most weeks and spend time with these beautiful sentient animals. They feel joy, pain and distress. They all have their own individual personalities – they are not commodities to be discarded. They all want to live. They deserve better than being shoved onto a ship with very little room to move, not enough water and most suffering from heat stress. Yes, I know there are regulations, but clearly they are not stringent enough to protect these sheep from immense suffering for months. Please refer to www.vale.org.au – Vets Against Live Exports, if you haven't already.

This abhorrent cruelty has gone on for too long, Australia needs to step up and do better for our animals to end live animal exports as soon as possible.

Lastly, the phase out of live animal exports was one of the major considerations of mine in voting in the last federal election.

Yours sincerely

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