

Submission for the ending of live animal export.
A letter from a concerned community member.

To whom it may concern,

I am a Labor voter for many reasons and I am more than happy to see that you have a mandate to make changes that will enhance Australia's reputation overseas, and the many lives that these decisions affect. Some of these lives are those of the animals that humans have charge of, for the benefit of said humans.

I am not a farmer although I live on the land and have animals. I am not vegetarian but am mindful of the meat I eat, for both environmental and moral reasons. I applaud the government's promise to phase out live animal export. I have always considered it cruel to transport animals to their death in conditions that do not bear thinking about. To meet their death while being fully cognisant of what is happening. I do not think farmers like the idea of their animals meeting an end they cannot police. At least there are some (but not always) more humane rules of how animals should be slaughtered in Australia.

I applaud New Zealand's decision, and also the ruling of the Brazilian judge, to end live animal export. I believe that this will be an ongoing trend. That knowing an animal has been killed kindly (that is an oxymoron!) will count for more, especially in developed countries. And without wanting to appear didactic, I think it is important to set an example through action.

I am therefore asking you to end live animal export as soon as possible - this year, if that is feasible. I would support some financial assistance to farmers making the transition. I am wondering if it would be possible to educate consumers of meat on what it is they are eating – animal rights organisations should not be seen as an enemy; why is it not possible to combine a government and these organisations to form a think tank? Or perhaps create a trade delegation, marrying countries who have a combined interest in producing and consuming meat, and seeing how we can help each other. Not to forget encouraging and initially funding a bigger packaged meat export industry, which would help with jobs, processing plants, and would cut down on exporting costs – packaged meat being lighter which affects food miles. Using less fuel helps the environment.

On a more tangential level, I wonder if support for food science, and looking at ways of creating protein that does not need the amount of land and water that farming requires, might also be a way of feeding more people with less of an environmental risk. We are staring Climate Change in the face and there are huge hurdles in front of us. We need to act across the board.

I know I am just a member of the public, a voter; am not an activist, although I wish I had the courage to act, rather than just speak up. I recognise the cost involved in changing a system. However, when a system is corrupt and no longer works, (has never really worked), is it not better to invest in a new way of doing things? I strongly believe that this is an investment in the future. I whole heartedly support this government in doing what it must and wish you every success. The cruelty has to stop now.

With kind regards,



