

Submission to the independent panel for the:  
Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

First of all, I would like to congratulate the government for undertaking this long overdue task. The evidence against the perpetrators of such sickening cruelty is more than enough to condemn this industry to oblivion. I thank the whistle-blowers and undercover animal welfare operatives for rightly shaming this country.

Tens of thousands of sheep have already died aboard ships, and many more will be subjected to suffering, abuse, pain, and potentially horrendous deaths the longer this trade is permitted to continue.

New Zealand's landmark ban proves that ending this trade without delay is possible, and past investigations and reviews indicate that a swift shutdown is necessary to prevent the prolonged suffering of animals. I urge the government to set Australia down a kinder path by ending the live export of sheep during this elected term and working towards a future without any live-animal export.

Of course, sheep are not the only victims of this cruel trade. Recent animal welfare investigations in Indonesia found Australian cattle being improperly stunned and killed in painful, abhorrent ways. The footage shows that despite a government assurance scheme, cruelty is systemic in the industry.

Cruelty is found in every corner of the live-export industry, and although the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System was put in place more than a decade ago, exporters and abattoirs still either don't understand the regulations or don't care about following them because there are no meaningful consequences for non-compliance.

I implore the government to be bold in bringing the unjustified cruelty to these poor animals to a swift end.

Yours sincerely,

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