

Subject: Urgent Action Required: Phasing Out Live Export of Sheep and Cattle

Dear Prime Minister Albanese,

I write to you with an overwhelming sense of urgency and deep concern regarding the live export of sheep and cattle. It is high time that we address this abhorrent practice and fulfill the commitment made by the government, supported by the majority of Australians, to end live export. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent animals have already been lost, and the continued allowance of this trade will subject countless more to unimaginable suffering, abuse, and potentially horrendous deaths.

The time for action is long overdue. The footage and reports of the appalling conditions endured by sheep aboard live export ships are a stain on our nation's conscience. Each day that passes without a comprehensive plan to phase out this trade prolongs the suffering of these sentient beings, who deserve our compassion and protection. I implore you to act swiftly and decisively to end the live export of sheep during this elected term.

Furthermore, it is imperative to recognize that sheep are not the only victims of this cruel trade. Recent investigations by PETA Asia in Indonesia have revealed the improper stunning and painful, abhorrent slaughter methods inflicted upon Australian cattle. Despite the existence of a government assurance scheme, cruelty remains systemic within the industry. It is crucial that your plans to phase out live export also include cattle, ensuring that no animal is subjected to such unnecessary and inhumane treatment.

New Zealand's landmark ban on live export serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when a government takes a principled stand against animal cruelty. We must follow suit without delay, guided by the evidence from past investigations and reviews that clearly indicate the urgent need for a swift shutdown of this industry. The suffering endured by these innocent animals cannot be disregarded or ignored any longer.

While I understand that the phase-out of live export will impact exporters, farmers, and other businesses, it is vital to emphasize that their concerns cannot outweigh the abhorrence and cruelty inflicted upon these animals. We must prioritize compassion over profits. The government must proactively support and provide adjustment options for those affected by the phase-out, ensuring a just transition and a fair outcome for all stakeholders.

The Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System, implemented over a decade ago, was intended to regulate the industry and prevent cruelty. However, it is evident that exporters and abattoirs either fail to understand the regulations or simply disregard them because of the lack of meaningful

consequences for non-compliance. This glaring loophole must be addressed to safeguard animal welfare effectively.

The Australian public, along with concerned individuals worldwide, has consistently borne witness to the suffering and deaths of sheep aboard live export ships. We cannot continue to allow our country to be complicit in perpetuating such cruelty. I implore you to demonstrate leadership, compassion, and a commitment to animal welfare by taking immediate and decisive action to end the live export of sheep and cattle.

Prime Minister Albanese, the time to act is now. I urge you and the Labor government to set Australia down a kinder path, fulfilling your promise to end the live export of sheep during this elected term and working towards a future without any live-animal export. Let us be remembered as a nation that values the lives and well-being of all creatures, showing compassion and respect to every being in our care.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I trust in your commitment to creating a more humane and just society.

Sincerely,

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