

Subject: An Urgent Call to End Live Export of Sheep and Cattle

Dear Prime Minister Albanese,

I write to you today with a profound sense of disappointment and outrage at the continued existence of the live export industry in Australia. The abhorrence of this trade is well-documented, and yet, tens of thousands of sheep have already perished aboard ships, with countless more condemned to a life of suffering, abuse, pain, and potentially horrendous deaths. The time for action is long overdue.

The government made a commitment, one that was echoed by the majority of Australians, to end the live export of sheep. This commitment must now be fulfilled without further delay. How many more innocent lives need to be sacrificed before we finally put an end to this cruel and inhumane practice? The suffering endured by these sentient beings is a stain on our nation's conscience.

It is crucial to recognize that sheep are not the sole victims of this merciless trade. Recent investigations, such as the one conducted by PETA Asia in Indonesia in 2021, have exposed the horrifying treatment of Australian cattle, subjected to improper stunning and killed in agonizing and deplorable ways. This distressing footage clearly demonstrates that, despite the existence of government assurance schemes, cruelty remains systemic within the industry.

I implore you to include cattle in your plans to address this issue comprehensively. It is not enough to focus solely on sheep while turning a blind eye to the plight of other animals. We must acknowledge that cruelty permeates every corner of the live-export industry and take decisive action to rectify this moral travesty.

New Zealand's landmark ban on live exports serves as an exemplar of how to bring an end to this trade swiftly and effectively. We cannot ignore the overwhelming evidence from past investigations and reviews, which all point to the urgent necessity of shutting down this industry to prevent the prolonged suffering of innocent animals. I beseech you, Prime Minister Albanese, and the Labor government to lead Australia down a kinder path by fulfilling your promise to end the live export of sheep during this elected term and by actively working towards a future without any live-animal export.

Moreover, it is vital to address the glaring inadequacies of the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS), which was established over a decade ago. Despite its existence, exporters and abattoirs continue to display a blatant disregard for the regulations, either out of ignorance or a callous disregard for animal welfare. The absence of meaningful consequences for non-compliance has allowed this cruelty to persist unchecked. It is high time that those responsible for inflicting pain and suffering upon defenceless animals face severe repercussions for their actions.

Since the initial investigations into Australia's live-export industry, both Australians and people worldwide have been confronted with the harrowing reality of sheep suffering and dying on ships. It is an indelible stain on our nation's reputation, and we must not tolerate it any longer. Australia must unequivocally sever its ties with this cruel trade and set an example for the rest of the world to follow.

Prime Minister Albanese, the time for excuses and half-measures has passed. I implore you to exhibit true leadership and moral courage by taking immediate action to end the live export of sheep and cattle. This is a defining moment for our nation—one that will shape our legacy and define our commitment to compassion and justice. I trust that you will make the right choice and steer Australia towards a future where the exploitation and suffering of animals have no place.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.