

Ending live sheep export

Dear Panel

As a member of the public, I would like to submit my support to ending live sheep export as soon as possible. I voted for Labour purely on this issue and would like to see the phase out implemented during this current term to ensure it goes ahead even if there is a change of Government.

I welcome the support the Government will offer farmers and others businesses who will be impacted to transition to other ventures to ensure they have a sound future.

The time to end live export is now! It is a cruel and barbaric industry and despite the assurances and checks and balances in place there are too many breaches and cover-ups by industry. It is hard to believe what they say.

From an animal welfare point of view, these poor animals are land animals that are put onto a boat with bright lights, poor ventilation, heat, loud noises, poor and unhygienic conditions and rough seas. No animal should be subject to these conditions where they endure a rollicking surface, heat stress, unable to rest adequately, limited feed and water and feel real fear. I acknowledge that conditions on board these boats have been improved over the years however it is still a frightening and stressful experience for an animal. When they arrive at the destination it is often hot, humid, a strange environment and there is no guarantee all of them will remain in the supply chain and will be subject to rough handling, mistreatment and a cruel painful death. Despite assurances from industry once an animal arrives at its destination it is out of Australia's jurisdiction and we know breaches do occur.

Unfortunately, sheep aren't given the same protections as domestic animals but this doesn't mean they should be subjected to cruelty and inhumane conditions. In 2023 it defies belief that people think live export is okay, it is not! I will always support a Government that prioritises animal welfare and would like to see a ban on live export extended to other livestock as soon as possible as well.

There is an argument that if Australia bans live export other countries with lesser animal welfare policies will move into the space. I would like to see this argument replaced with a positive spin - that lets show these countries that it can be done very successfully and be a leader in this space. We know it can be done, lets learn from New Zealand who ended their live cattle trade in two years which was worth four times as much as Australia's live sheep trade and other countries that are looking at banning live export and work together as a collective.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my feedback and I am watching this closely with much anticipation that live sheep export will end during this Government's term and save thousands of animals having to endure unnecessary suffering.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May 2023

