



Live Sheep Exports Phase Out team

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

As a very concerned citizen I would like to voice my concern over Live Sheep Export and the need for its quick phase out. I note that New Zealand has now banned all animal export by sea. Australia needs to do the same. Surely Australia's international reputation is at stake! We need to be seen as a fair and compassionate nation.

I appreciate that the phase out affects a lot of farmers and industries, but like coal phase out, this needs to be done. The suffering of sheep is endemic to this trade. It's appalling and so inhumane. This trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

My family and I have watched in horror at poor animals suffering and dying on board ships and being slaughtered at Middle Eastern destinations in cruel and painful ways, including fully conscious slaughter. We are ashamed that this is allowed to happen to our Australian sheep. We have a responsibility to humane treatment. This cruelty must stop!

Farmers need to receive government support to help them to transition. Support and adjustment options surely must include options to expand domestic processing. We are transitioning old coal dependency to solar and green energy options..... change needs to happen now across this agricultural industry and supply chain.

Change is overdue. Australia is a smart country. Solutions can be found amongst the agricultural industry itself. An holistic approach is called for if we are to have a bright future for our next generation. Climate change is shaking up our old approaches to farming. Packages that support sheep, farmers and the planet are all intertwined.

We need to listen to farmers, the community and scientists to effect lasting change.

I will not support a government that turns a blind eye to animals' unnecessary suffering. I supported Labor in the last election and want certainty that this trade will end. The phase-out needs to be legislated and commence in this term of parliament. Phase out should begin and end as soon as possible. Inexcusable suffering has gone on for too long.

Defending this live export trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. Many Australians support an end to live sheep export and have lobbied for this change for a very long time. Given the unnecessary length of time we have had to wait for change, change needs to happen now! Community determination for change will not cease.

Please consider my submission. I am but one voice of many, who want quick phase out of this disgraceful live sheep export trade.

Yours Sincerely

