

Dear Committee,

I am and have been very concerned and horrified for decades, at the treatment and disrespect of farmed animals, not only in Australia but across the world.

I am writing this to plead with the Australian Government to take urgent action on the promise to cease Live sheep export by sea. This promise to start phasing out this practice must commence within your first term in Government.

The longer this continues the more our sheep will continue to suffer in a multitude of ways. Sheep suffer as they endure long road transport, often for days without adequate water or food. They are crammed into trucks and endure heat stress and fatigue, fear and stress. Then they find themselves in strange environments on ports, loaded onto large ships and sent off over the seas. Seas are rough, not a natural environment obviously and the further they go, the more distress they obviously would be experiencing. The Vets (maybe only one on board) should, but cannot examine every life on board, easing their symptoms. The northern temperatures are horrendous, the heat stress unbearable. Once unloaded in importing countries our sheep are sent to slaughterhouses that practice fully conscious slaughter. If the government do not act on this in this term, the LNP may govern next time and this practice will continue. The ALP needs to act now.

I am proudly Vegan. To be a Vegan is to do no harm, or our very best to do No Harm. I do not believe the narrative of many farmers or institutions, that sheep are well looked after or that the industry truly care about each life, they grow, ship and receive money for. Of course I would and do advocate for total ban on the killing of any animal for human consumption as it is morally wrong to do so. I therefore urge the Government to help farmers transition away from exploitation of animals and instead grow clean, healthy and future plant based crops that help them to profit, the animals, the environment and the Planet.

The export of live sheep by sea has been declining over the year as you know. New Zealand has recently announced progressive and welcome policy change in this area of animal welfare not only for Sheep but other farmed animals banning live export by sea. Australia's reputation in animal welfare is not good. We don't need to declare that we are better than some other cruel countries, we can stand up and do the right thing and stop this industry that has failed everyone as soon as possible.

Animal, Human and Environmental Rights are of utmost importance and is becoming of major concern to millions of people all over the world, especially as evidence has been made available to the public. Australia needs to lead in compassion and be seen to.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my passionate thoughts on this topic.

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