

To whom it may concern, submission in support of ending the live export of sheep, as soon as possible.

I live in Perth. However, my mother was raised on a sheep farm and my father worked the land. I have indigenous descendency and my grandfather drove, by horseback, sheep along the east coast in his youth. I am an animal advocate and believe an untimely and unnatural death for any animal is the absolute fault of any person engaged in any role which allows this to occur: farmer, exporter, delegated decision maker supporting any practice where animal exploitation is for profit, consumer.

Whilst appreciating that no one likes change and that loss of income will always trump animal welfare, I propose that the earliest possible time for the cessation of all live animal export is NOW. The death of one more animal at sea, or in barbaric circumstances in a foreign land, is one too many. The suffering of all animals, once they leave Australian soils, is well documented. We are all complicit in this, as long as it continues to happen. There has been significant time for farmers to develop a conscious about the plight of their animals. Their responsibility does not end at the ship, not when they too are privy as to the conditions their livestock will endure once they are loaded as freight.

The government should assist farmers, monetarily, to enable transition to more sustainable agricultural ventures, preferably ones that do not involve animal agriculture. Many farmers are rehabilitating land, revegetating, practicing more sustainable agricultural practices. Education is key and farming communities should be supported thru exposure to the successful practices of those who are engaging in alternative business practices that do not involve animal exploitation.

This decision does affect my family. It is a difficult thing to explain to your children that our society cares more about money, then the suffering of vulnerable animals which we have a responsibility to protect. It is a difficult thing to explain to your children that the government encourages enterprises that knowingly profit from the suffering of animals. The decision to cease the live export of sheep will go along way in informing all: my children, all Australians, all nations, that not only do we commit to prioritising animal welfare but that we do not intend to support nations where it is not a priority.

Live export of animals is deplorable. Once you know, you cannot unknow the likelihood of their unpleasant demise. It is all of our responsibility, to close this heinous chapter of our doing. May it be the start of a brighter future for animals, who depend on us for kindness and care. May it be a chance for all of us to look at our own behaviours and make the changes we can, so that we can be a part of a world of less suffering for all.

Stop live sheep export now.

Stop all live animal export imminently.

Stop animal agriculture in the foreseeable future.

Support farmers to transition from animal agriculture.

Encourage a kinder society where Australians can be proud of a legacy where animal welfare is held in greater regard than exploitation for profit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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