

30/5/23

Dear panel,

Thank you for allowing the community to put in a submission to phase out live sheep exports by sea. While myself and thousands more people would like to see live exports phased out for all livestock, and by all modes of transport, I am happy to be able to submit a submission to phase out live sheep export by sea

- *a suggested timeframe and options for implementation*

The phase-out must begin and end as soon as possible, in this parliamentary term. Every delay means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries. There is always the danger that Labor may not be re-elected, and if a coalition government should resurface, this would be a significant setback.

- *potential ways to support the transition, including but not limited to consideration of markets, processing facilities and other opportunities*

The type of support farmers receive while the transition happens is crucial to the success of this phase-out. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to transition to plant-based agriculture, which is a growing industry. It is well documented that a plant-based diet is healthier for you, better for the planet, and saves countless animals lives, so not only would these farmers be saving millions of sheep's lives, but they will be doing good for the planet.

The best thing to help farmers transition is to offer government grants to them to transition to plant based agriculture or cell-based meats which is an industry on the rise. This modern technology can create meat from animal cells without the need for animal harvesting and slaughter. It is resource efficient and environmentally sustainable and is the way of the future. Supporting the development of factories to produce this product will help reduce our carbon footprint, but will also offer jobs.

- *other matters as appropriate*

New Zealand's recent ban is an example of how a civilised country should behave toward animals and respect the views of the general public over a few vested interests. If NZ can phase out live export in 2 years – refer this link [NZ banned live export in 2 years](#) then Federal labour can also do the same thing during their first term.

This is crucial, in order to save thousands and thousands of sheep. These sheep cannot afford to wait another 4 years, and if the Coalition gets in, as I've already said, there will more than likely be nothing done to stop this horrible practice.

Our international reputation is at stake. There are other countries that have already stopped importing live exports because they know how cruel the industry is. According to Voiceless, Australia is the worst performer under the VACI, together with Belarus. Refer this link [Australia - Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index](#) which says that Australia has a very high level of animal product consumption and production and a decentralised approach to animal welfare legislation and enforcement. Please also refer to the below screen shots taken from this link.

Producing cruelty

RANK 44

Australia is highly dependent on animals, with around 8.2 animals farmed per person, which is twice the global average. Australia slaughters around 28.1 land animals per person per year, almost triple the global average of 10.1. Most pigs, [chickens](#) and other farmed birds are confined in [factory farms](#) and some cows are raised entirely or partly within intensive farming systems.

Consuming cruelty

RANK 50

Australians consume the second-highest number of land-based animals (after the United States) and have the highest proportion of land-based animal protein in their diet at almost 64%. According to the Roy Morgan Research Institute, the number of people who self-identify as entirely or mostly vegetarian rose from 9.7% to 12.1% in 2019.

Sanctioning cruelty

RANK 34

Australia is a *marginal* performer ("D") under the Animal Protection Index (API), and its farmed animal protection legislation achieved a *poor* performance rating ("E") under the same index. The country has limited national animal protection laws and policies, and continues to permit battery cages for layer hens, live export and painful husbandry procedures without the use of anaesthetic. Learn more about the quality of Australia's legislative protections [here](#).

In 2022, Federal Labor promised voters they would phase out live sheep export by sea. They shouldn't defer this promise by saying "not in this term". This means thousands more sheep will needlessly suffer on these death ships the longer this phase out takes to be implemented, as I've already pointed out, despite the majority of Australian's making it clear that they want live export stopped. One national survey carried out in 2018 found 75% of respondents wanted live export banned entirely, including 70% of rural Australian respondents (RSPCA, 2018). <https://www.rspca.org.au/media-centre/news/2018/new-poll-finds-3-4-australians-want-live-export-end-greatest-concern-over>

Our government made us a promise, yet talk has been on the table about routes to Saudi Arabia reopening, a route that was shut down in 2012 after numerous reports of thousands of animals dying cruel deaths on this route. It is unfathomable that the government is now considering restarting this trade in innocent sentient lives when they have made an election promise to do the exact opposite.

This live sheep export by sea phase-out needs to be legislated and commence and end in this term of parliament.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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