

30 May 2023

Submission for the ban of live export of sheep by sea

I am a member of the public that care about sheep, my name is [REDACTED] I was brought up and worked on a farm and have since been concerned and immensely passionate about animal welfare. My plea is the phase-out of live export of sheep to begin and end as soon as possible.

Mechanism

1) How should the government implement the phase out of live sheep exports by sea?

Making a decision to ban live export from Australia is the first step. Then implement the start of the phase out within a six month period. Have it legislated in this term of government. If the phase out is delayed millions of lives of animals will be negatively impacted.

Why should the government use this approach?

Australians don't want live export. In recent years during the Co-vid pandemic the world watched Australia make an impact. This time, Australia could make an international precedence as a fair and compassionate nation as did New Zealand when a precedent was made when they ending live export in September 2022. If the phase out is delayed millions of live of animals will be impacted.

Timeframe

2) What is an appropriate timeframe to phase out live sheep exports by sea?

Australians want certainty that this live trade will be put to an end and that the phase-out be legislated and starts in this term of parliament, as strongly recommended by animal welfare experts, based on scientific evidence of the animal suffering caused by prolonged heat stress.

What are your reasons for proposing this timeframe? Impact and adjustment

I'm concerned about the health and welfare of live export of sheep and impact of millions of animals if the phase out is delayed. Every delay means more sheep are subjected to indescribable suffering while being transported on long journeys by sea and air to then face conscious slaughter in the importing countries.

3) Will you or your business be impacted by the phase out of live sheep exports by sea? If so, please provide details of the impact.

Yes – as one of many animal welfare advocates and a member of the Animal Justice Party this would be a win for these sentient beings to which we care about and give a voice to.

4) What will the phase out mean to you, your employer or employees, suppliers, customers, friends and family, and/or your community?

The phase out would prove that Australians are compassionate

5) What barriers and/or constraints might there be for exporters, farmers, and other participants across the supply chain to transition away from live sheep exports by sea?

N/A

6) How should supply chain participants be supported as they transition away from live sheep exports by sea?

The removal of live animals from the supply chains could allow for boxed and chilled produce and further into the future for plant based alternatives.

7) What would you or your business and/or other supply chain participants need to do to transition away from live sheep exports by sea?

Support other animal welfare groups to unite together to help make a difference

8) How long do you think it will take for you and/or other supply chain participants to transition away from live sheep exports by sea?

This would depend on how soon the government could implement this ban. Potentially before the proposed date of 2025 with the assistance and guidance from New Zealand.

9) What can be learnt from other countries that have ceased live sheep exports? What lessons can be learned from Australian states or territories that no longer export live sheep by sea?

We could learn from the New Zealand government (with their recent ban of live export of dairy cows and their unborn calves) as to how much better (and quicker) Australia could implement the ban of live export.

Opportunities

10) What opportunities should the government and/or industry pursue in the lead up to and following the transition out of live sheep exports by sea? (e.g., expanding domestic processing and value adding, increasing sheep meat exports, other)

Other opportunities could be presented to farmers/ supply chains etc for plant based alternatives

11) What would industry participants need, or need to do, to take advantage of opportunities?

Provide education and knowledge of these alternative opportunities

12) What are the barriers and/or constraints to pursuing opportunities?

Possibly knowledge and education.