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Public consultation submission

**Phase out of live sheep exports by sea**

I write this submission as a concerned community member who wholly supports the urgent phase out of the cruel live sheep export industry. The government can not delay initiating the phase out until next term. As a West Australian, I am confronted by the image of hulking live export ships in Fremantle port and the convoy of sheep packed trucks headed there on a regular basis. It is hard not to reflect on how these animals will suffer during their journey and after they arrive at the destination. We need a legislated commitment which ensures there is an end in sight for this awful animal cruelty.

It is essential to recognise that the industry is outdated and inhumane, and not prioritise its economic contribution over alignment with the dominant Australian animal welfare expectations. The government should offer support to farmers during the transition period. An example of such government support in another industry is the Collie coal mine shutdowns which will see retraining programs and other blue collar job opportunities funded by the WA state government.

Just as the coal mine closure reflects international sustainability expectations, a live sheep export ban is in alignment with global animal welfare progress. Both New Zealand and the UK have now banned live export by sea, not merely sheep but cows too, Australia must take action now. It reflects poorly that we are now lagging behind in global animal welfare standards.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and hopefully your urgent action in bringing an end to live export.

Yours sincerely,

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