

30 May 2023

Attn: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Phase-out of live sheep exports by sea

For far too long I have watched in horror at the inexcusable suffering of animals shipped as live cargo from Australia to other countries, all for the sake of profit. The cruelty and suffering that Australian livestock endures on these nightmare journeys is one of our country's greatest shames, and I wholeheartedly support the phase-out that the Albanese government has promised.

You need only to look next door to New Zealand, to see the compassionate strides taken to end the suffering of animals in the live export trade. Consumers are becoming increasingly ethically conscious, and while Britain has not brought into force plans to ban live exports, the proposal itself dictates that the world is changing and no longer tolerating the suffering of animals for financial gain. Australia is in an excellent position to set a precedent alongside New Zealand to end live export, and to take pride in being a fair, ethically conscious, and above all, kind country.

So, as a concerned citizen of Australia, I want assurance from the government that this promise will be kept, and that the phase-out is legislated and commences in this term of parliament. Fundamentally, I want assurance that the suffering of sheep for the live export trade ends as soon as possible.

I understand that there will be some financial hardships for sheep farmers as a result of the phase-out of live exports, and therefore I also support the government's consideration of this when assisting farmers through this transition.

Finally, I want to speak from the heart. As a human being, standing by watching the decision makers of this country inflict pain and suffering on defenceless animals, sentient beings that we have absolutely no right to lay claim over, whose lives we have stolen for greed and profit, condemning them to indescribable torment before death, brings me disgrace. A repellent disgust. How are we part of a world that is so dysregulated and disconnected from nature? The creatures we share the planet with, that are a blessing to stand alongside, we choose to torture. At a human level, we can recognise pain, we can recognise fear – if people were treated like 'cargo', enduring endless weeks at sea, 'cooking alive', surrounded by death, faeces, hunger, there would be a global outcry - how is this justified?

There is no 'best practice' for these cruelty ships.

Live exports need to come to an end, and the Australian government must take immediate legislative action, within this term of parliament, to ban the live export of sheep immediately.

Sincerely,

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