

Dear Panel Members,

I am writing to urge your immediate attention and action towards the phase-out of live animal exports by sea in Australia. As a concerned citizen, I am deeply troubled by the continued suffering and cruelty inflicted upon animals in the live export industry. It is crucial that we prioritise their well-being and take swift measures to transition to a more ethical and sustainable future.

Live animal exports by sea have long been a contentious issue, with numerous reports of animal welfare violations, high mortality rates, and extreme suffering during long-distance journeys. The inherent risks associated with transporting live animals over extended periods are incompatible with our commitment to animal welfare and compassionate treatment.

There is a growing global consensus that the export of live animals for slaughter or further fattening is an outdated and inhumane practice. Many countries, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and several European nations, have already taken steps to end or restrict this trade due to its ethical concerns and associated environmental impacts.

In recent years, Australia has made significant progress in addressing animal welfare issues within the live export industry. The introduction of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) and the establishment of the Independent Office of Animal Welfare are commendable steps towards improving accountability and oversight. However, these measures are not sufficient to ensure the well-being of animals during long sea journeys, which often span weeks and expose them to stressful and potentially fatal conditions.

By promptly phasing out live animal exports by sea, Australia can make a profound statement to the international community about its commitment to animal welfare and responsible trade practices. This transition would not only safeguard the welfare of countless animals but also strengthen Australia's global reputation as a leader in animal protection and ethical standards.

It is worth noting that the economic impact of the live export industry is diminishing, with alternative markets and practices emerging. Australia has the resources and expertise to invest in developing and expanding alternative industries that prioritise the export of processed or chilled meat products. Such a shift would not only create new economic opportunities but also foster sustainable and responsible agricultural practices.

Furthermore, the public sentiment surrounding live animal exports has undergone a significant shift, with increasing numbers of Australians voicing their concerns about animal welfare. By heeding the public's call for change, you have an opportunity to demonstrate strong leadership and respond to the ethical expectations of a compassionate society.

In conclusion, I implore you to act swiftly in phasing out live animal exports by sea in Australia. By taking this bold step, we can position ourselves at the forefront of global animal welfare initiatives, protect the lives of countless animals, and foster a more sustainable and compassionate future.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I trust that you will give due consideration to the concerns raised in this submission and take decisive action for the benefit of animals, our nation, and our international standing.

Yours sincerely,

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