

Panel for the Phase Out Of Live Sheep Exports By Sea

Dear Independent Panel Members,

Re: Phase Out Of Live Sheep Exports By Sea

I believe live sheep exports by sea should be stopped without delay because any delay means more sheep will continue to suffer effects ranging from the stress of sea transport to being slaughtered while fully conscious.

The live export of sheep by sea is a cruel and unacceptable practice that has no place in our modern progressive Australian society. Every moment it continues to exist, it damages Australia's international reputation as a compassionate and fair nation. It has also eroded my confidence in Australia's agricultural sector to the point that I no longer eat meat. To be clear, I stopped eating meat two decades ago as a direct result of the cruel live export industry.

As an Australian, I want this inhumane trade to end immediately.

I understand, however, that the government is proposing a phase-out. In that case, the phase-out needs to be legislated and commence in this term of the parliament and as soon as possible. As part of this, I support the government in assisting farmers to transition. However, I stress that this transitional support should not just be in the form of financial support but also consist of practical help and advice for farmers (including how to take better care of their animals).

Put yourself in the place of just one of these defenceless sheep to experience what they go through when exported by sea. Treated like "cargo", they are so tightly packed into the ships that many cannot even lie down to rest, nor can they access food and water. Add extreme heat to this, poor ventilation (causing them to struggle to breathe), and rough seas. They become exhausted. And then there are the millions of litres of untreated waste that they have to stand in. Many become sick and injured. The result is death and extreme suffering. This suffering worsens when transport ships break down at sea or sink. And for the sheep still alive at the end of these barbaric journeys, they face being stuffed into car boots in hot Middle Eastern countries. And then later, to have their throats cut while fully conscious.

How would you feel if you were one of these sheep?

And then multiply this by the millions upon millions of sheep that this has happened to and will continue to happen to unless you put a stop to it, and soon. The decision of how soon this stops, is up to you.

Please do the right thing to protect our sheep from this nightmare of suffering by scheduling the phase-out to happen without delay.

I appreciate your consideration.

Kind regards,

Signed

A Concerned Australian Citizen.