

Submission for Ending Live Animal Exports

The reason I voted for Labor in the 2022 election, was due to Anthony Albanese's promise of, 'Strengthening Animal Welfare' and ending live animal exports. Therefore, the Albanese Government stating that, "The phase out (of live animal exports) will not take place during the current term of the Australian Parliament' (Consultation Paper, 2023, P.2) goes against what was initially promised in the election.

New Zealand ended its live export of cattle, deer, goats and sheep on 30th April 2023. This practice was phased out over two years. In Australia, we are only phasing out the live export of sheep by sea and still this is being stalled. Australia has a despicable track record in animal welfare and leads the world in animal extinctions. As an Australian, I am disgusted by the lack of animal welfare laws and the barbaric way animals are treated in Australia. Due to the risks to animals that are exported to various countries and the horrific way they are slaughtered when they get there, I believe that live animal exports must cease for all animals. We should follow the New Zealand model to end all live animal exports.

It also makes economic sense for Australia to ban live animal exports and process the animals in an ethical way in Australia. According to the chief executive from the RSPCA, Richard Mussell, live animal exports have been plagued with disaster and has been in terminal decline for some time. He states that research shows that sheep processed in Australia will contribute a lot more to the Australian economy than exporting the animal live, so ending live animal exports is the right thing to do for both animal welfare and the Australian economy (Wahlquist, 2022).

Australian Government, (2023), Phase out of live sheep exports by sea: consultation paper, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Wahlquist, C. (2022, June 3). *Anthony Albanese says live sheep exports won't be phased out before 2025*. The Guardian; The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jun/03/anthony-albanese-says-live-sheep-exports-wont-be-phased-out-before-2025>