

Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

Dear Panel Members

Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair)
The Hon Warren Snowdon
Ms Sue Middleton
Ms Heather Neil

I applaud the Australian Government for committing to phase out live sheep exports from Australia by sea.

Timeframe to implement phaseout:

I urge the Government to legislate the following in **this term of parliament**:

- the commencement of the phase out
- the end date to the trade.

The end date of the trade should be as soon as possible for the following reasons:

Prevent suffering

Prolonging the end of the trade will result in many more sheep suffering the long horrendous journeys and the abuse and conscious slaughter at their destinations.

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The industry may have believed they had social license however when the horrific suffering was broadcast nationally, it was clear the industry's standard practices were entirely unacceptable to the public.

Biosecurity risk

If you haven't already, I implore the panel to read Zoonotic Disease Risks of Live Export of Cattle and Sheep, with a Focus on Australian Shipments to Asia and the Middle East. (Clive J. C. Phillips); the following is an extract:

' Most human disease emanates from animals, and there is a significant risk of zoonotic diseases being transmitted from livestock that travel long distances between countries as part of the live export trade. Both cattle and sheep are subject to many stressors when transported long distances by ship, including **starvation, ship motion, ammonia, heat stress, high stocking density, an unhygienic environment and mixing of animals**. These are believed to deplete immune system responses, fostering disease transmission between livestock. Several zoonotic diseases commonly occur in livestock exported from Australia, and this sometimes triggers rejection by importing countries. Trade restrictions have been imposed in the past by both importing and exporting

countries as a means of controlling disease spread. **It is concluded that the live export trade in cattle and sheep poses a significant risk of spreading zoonotic diseases.'**

Ageing ships

The ageing sheep ships require expensive maintenance and may be prone to malfunction tragedies at sea.

Government's commitment

Legislating an end date is the only way the public will be assured that the Government will stand by its commitment. I voted Labor in the last election due to their promise to phase out the live sheep exports and I know of many others who based their vote on a commitment to end the trade, including a colleague who usually votes Liberal.

Increase Australia's reputation for standards in animal welfare

New Zealand ended a live cattle trade worth a great deal more than Australia's live sheep trade.

Animal welfare is under increasing scrutiny and our international reputation for animal welfare will improve as soon as this industry ends.

It is abhorrent that in 2023 this is still happening, especially in a supposedly progressive country such as Australia.

Support and adjustment options for those impacted by the phase out

I am in support of subsidies to be provided to those in the industry, to assist them with the phase out.

Also, I would encourage providing education and training to transition farmers into regenerative agriculture, thus helping the environment, such as producing healthier soils and combatting climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

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