

Dear Panel members,

I would like to express in writing my horror and dismay that the live export of animals is still happening in Australia. I cannot condone the extreme suffering of these animals – aboard ship and their treatment upon arrival – for the sake of profits. We must set an end date for this vile practice – the sooner, the better!

Does anyone ever wonder how we are to create a more peaceful and less violent world when we can't show compassion for *animals that we have bred, that exist only to be killed, to sustain our own lives*? Surely, the least we owe them is a cruelty-free life and a humane death.

The prolonged heat stress, cramped conditions, dehydration, inhalation of ammonia, standing in their own waste, all of which they endure for weeks on end, only to be killed through painful, un-stunned slaughter (and the like) is just not acceptable.

If we did it to dogs, people would be absolutely horrified and demand an end to it **today**. Why are farm animals so different? Do they not also feel pain, distress, fear – just like dogs? Of course they do, but we (evidently) value their lives so much less.

When even a live export veterinarian [REDACTED] feels compelled to speak out about the extreme suffering she witnessed – first hand – aboard nearly 60 live export voyages, *surely*, it's time to acknowledge that there are serious, ongoing animal welfare issues embedded in the live export trade?

I understand that, aside from a large number of national and international animal welfare organisations, the chief executive of the RSPCA Australia, Richard Mussell, believes the live sheep export trade has “deep, inherent and **unfixable**” animal welfare issues and an end date must be set to ensure this shamelessly cruel trade is brought to an end.

I think there has been a certain amount of intentional misleading of the public, leading them to believe that Australia animal welfare standards can be enforced overseas, where these unfortunate creatures end up, when that is simply not true. Australia cannot enforce any policies or regulations in another country and this has created well-documented cases of animal cruelty.

I have compassion for the farmers and do not wish to see them put out of business, but the amount of suffering endured by their animals is not justifiable. They always say they care about the welfare of their animals. In which case, they should be more horrified than the rest of us, seeing how their animals suffer in order to generate wealth for themselves.

I have never understood why we can't slaughter them here, instead of letting them go to countries where animal rights are not as highly valued. Why do we not slaughter them here, and create jobs for Australians, where we can ensure they are treated and processed humanely?

Surely, we are not selling these animals to countries where refrigeration is not available, in the twenty-first century? And if we are, if they don't even have refrigeration, how can they afford to have livestock imported – unless they were so dirt cheap it was affordable for them? In which case, it only compounds the injustice – that these animals should suffer **so** much for so little profit.

Additionally, I understand that both sheep export companies in Australia are actually foreign-owned. How much do our farmers pay (or have their animals' values reduced) to ship these tortured souls to overseas markets on foreign-owned ships?

If New Zealand can implement a ban on live export, worth a not insignificant NZ\$524million in 2022, why can we not adjust our trade, worth \$1.6billion, to conditions which actually show value for the lives of these animals we profit – monetarily and in our own sustenance – from the lives and deaths of?

I know I voted with animal welfare and a ban on live export very much in mind, and I urge the Australian Government to commit to an end date for live export. We can do better. And we need to do better.

Please, make live export history and commit to a sustainable, profitable, humane future for Australian farmers and their animals.

Yours sincerely,

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