

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to you to let you know my concerns about the treatment and suffering of sheep and cattle in the Australian live export industry. My greatest concern is the suffering endured by sheep, cattle, and other animals exported from Australia for live slaughter.

We have seen time and again that Australian animals cannot be transported and processed humanely, particularly those transported by sea, to an overseas market. Live Export of Australian animals needs to be phased out. Sheep are particularly vulnerable to heat stress due to high temperatures, both onboard and at their destinations. Most live export ships do not have an independent observer onboard.

There is now much awareness of the horrific treatment of animals in many of the slaughter processes undertaken in the nations Australia is exporting animals to, along with the horrific temperatures that animals suffer (often covered in faeces), and the numbers of animals dying of heat exhaustion on export ships before they arrive at the destination. The live export industry has lost its social license and will not be tolerated by the majority of Australian citizens any longer.

The RSPCA has proven approximately two-thirds of Australians want this trade to end. The live export trade has damaged Australia's global reputation.

Much of the Australian Meat Industry also supports the move away from the inhumane practise of live export. The meat industry itself, and the associated union, has in the past decade, called for an end to live export industry - citing the previously closed Australian slaughter businesses and resulting lost jobs as harmful to this industry. The industry must move toward transition from live export to chilled meat export without delay.

New Zealand has achieved the end of live export. New Zealand has successfully ended live export by sea in 2007, and replaced with domestic meat processing, with a full ban in 2023 - due to animal welfare, the duration of transport by sea, and New Zealand's international reputation as a humane society. This is proof that a different and more humane business model is possible. It feels shameful that New Zealand has achieved this while Australia has not. This treatment of Australian animals is a global embarrassment to this country. We are better, as a nation, than this awful practise of live export.

Australia cannot dictate slaughter practises in other countries and is not responsible for how meat is slaughtered/produced overseas. Australia is responsible for the welfare of Australian animals in the farming industry.

The industry needs to transition to slaughter of Australian sheep and cattle onshore. A well thought out transition to a more humane business model of processed and frozen meat for the Australian sheep and cattle industry needs to be implemented, and the phase out of live animal exports in Australia needs to be initiated in this term of government, without delay, as promised in this governments election campaign. A delay of this phase out will result in extreme suffering for hundreds of thousands to millions of sheep, and this is unacceptable. The timeframe to implement the phase-out must be decided and legislated in this term of government.

This issue is a high priority for me and is of highest concern to me when voting for elected officials. I have felt strongly regarding this matter for almost two decades now and my thoughts and feelings on this issue are not going to change. As a citizen of Australia, I am going to push for our government to end the live export of Australian animals until this is done and banned, and I will always vote accordingly.

It must be banned. The ban must be put in force in conjunction with support for farmers, and other businesses impacted by the change to industry; support that enables them to transition their business model to a sustainable industry that excludes the inhumane practises and suffering of transport and inhumane slaughter methods that are currently inflicted upon Australian animals in live export.

The industry has been economically declining since 2004 and is becoming unviable financially, as well as breaching the welfare standards expected by Australian society.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.