

Submission to the livetrade phase out committee.

I oppose the phase out on the following grounds.

1. The livetrade is a viable ethical law abiding business. There is no such thing as social license which is a construct invoked by those who are of the view that democracy has failed them. They don't get their way so they invoke the social license.
2. The trade is worth \$90-130 million annually. The trade means export dollars without which this country would not survive (mining and ag being our two largest exports).
3. The trade is not in decline and only fell over time because the Saudi arabian market refused to abide by escas requirement. They are now set to re enter the market meaning the trade will have a much higher value and less demand will be put on the other 8 million sheep which come from elsewhere in cramped conditions without food or water.
4. We allow people who come to this country to dictate what ceremonies we are and aren't allowed to have. We pander to those who don't celebrate Christmas. We have forced other countries to accept ESCAS. Its time we stopped enforcing our sovereignty on others.
5. If they want live sheep to celebrate their religion are we now going to start practicing intolerance?
6. There are 3000 people employed in this trade from the farmers themselves to the shearers (labor started at the tree of knowledge and shearers: talk about killing your mother), truckies, stock agents etc.
7. The livetrade is a pressure relief valve. We don't have a domestic market and in WA are traditionally 8-23% behind the eastern states in pricing (figures from Ep3). When we don't have feed we have traditionally been able to offload sheep to the live trade. We currently cant because of the summer embargo and prices have plummeted.
8. Australia being in the live trade means that animal welfare is of a higher standard than it otherwise would be... Saudi stepped out and imported from elsewhere with twice as many sheep on the same vessels with no food or water because they wouldn't accept escas but they are now prepared to. This is a huge win for Australia and animal welfare.
9. The ban is based on a lie. The lie is that this is a cruel trade. This is not true given the highly successful trips since the awassi express.
10. The vision we saw was found to be of dubious providence with the high likelihood of payments being made to make sure the deaths happened in order to advance the animal activists cause.
11. There is a relativity here with the number of native animals estimated to be killed every year by cats alone estimated to be 2 billion (yes billion) meaning that animal welfare is not at the top of the list of priorities of the activists but a nice cushy highly paid job.
12. This is the thin edge of the wedge. New Zealand phased out the live sheep trade, followed by cattle by sea and now the activists are targeting the livetrade by air. Once the government bows to one activist action it will be on the back foot forever. Remember at the ministerial briefing when [REDACTED] asked if [REDACTED] would target cattle next he tried to say that they are concentrating on sheep for the moment. Deception by omission.