

Submission for the ceasing of Live Animal Transport.

26th May, 2023

This is an industry that must be stopped as soon as possible, The phase out must begin and end as soon as possible. It must be legislated and the phase out must be commenced in this term of parliament (2023).

Australians have wanted this trade to stop for many years but the community sentiment has thus far been ignored. We want certainty that this trade will end.

To support Australian industry and workforce build abattoirs to humanely kill the sheep in Australia. This would increase employment in the building and employment industries in Australia.

Farmers may have to be supported in this transition with some funding during the transition and only during the transition from live to chilled meat.

Provide aid money to all the countries that currently receive our live animals so that they can build refrigeration facilities and back-up generators in the event of load shedding (power outages) which can occur in these countries. This will keep the carcasses shipped from Australia chilled ready for sale. Exclude Saudi Arabia and the very wealthy countries as they have the money to build the facilities.

It is a sad fact that Australia's reputation as an ethical country regarding animal welfare is questionable. So, legislating an ending to this trade within this parliamentary term will demonstrate that Australia recognises that this trade is outdated and barbaric and that we can be a compassionate nation. Even Brazil has ended this horrific trade in live animals.

Finally, all the regulations that have been put into place to end the suffering over many years have continually failed to stop the inherent cruelty of this trade to animals. The sheep suffer devastating heat distress during the voyage (please note the footage on the Animals Australia website and the www.Google). Ewes birth lambs on these ships, their only experience of their short life is being 'cooked alive'. Description as follows;

"Trapped in what is essentially a 'giant oven', extremely heat-distressed animals collapse before literally being cooked alive. Other heat stressed sheep may die slowly over the following days. Those who survive a heat event will continue to suffer in this putrid bog, now littered with decaying bodies of their dead companions".

Once on these rust buckets (ships?) animal welfare is out of Australia's control and the animals are at the hands of people who slaughter them without any thought to these sentient beings' suffering.

I voted for this Labor government as ending the live Sheep Trade was one of their policies. I expect, not hope, that it will honour this policy and legislate to end the trade now.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Atkin

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