

25/05/2023

To the Live Sheep Export Panel,

I am a member of the public who grew up and still resides in regional NSW and a person who believes the continuation of allowing live sheep exports is not only harmful to the individual sheep and their welfare but also to the reputation of Australia.

The live export trade has lost its social licence and as a country we do not want this trade to continue.

Veterinarian Dr Lynn Simpson, said "This industry entails unnecessary pain and suffering for all the animals involved within it. Anyone who tells you different is either ill-informed, they're a liar or they're staying silent for fear of losing their job."

Regarding the terms of reference.

- The phase-out must begin and end **as soon as possible**. Every delay means more sheep are subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries. There is always the danger that Labor may not be re-elected and if a coalition government should resurface, this would be a significant setback.
- How the phase out will impact exporters, farmers and other businesses across the supply chain?

This phase out has been on the cards for years. Farmers have had adequate time to prepare themselves for this transition.

Farmers have ample opportunities to change up their operation from sheep into other industries like crops.

In September 2022, the New Zealand Parliament passed a bill banning all live export of animals by sea, taking effect from April 2023. As well as the significant animal welfare issues involved with continuing the live export trade, the New Zealand government was concerned about the damage to the country's reputation and brand.

Despite overwhelming evidence of repeated, systemic animal welfare violations, recurring scandals and disasters, Australia remains engaged in the live export trade at the expense of countless animals and our national reputation. Most live export ships leave Australia without an independent observer on board to monitor compliance with animal welfare standards.

Australians do not want live (sheep) export to continue, farmers and the larger conglomerates that own them do.

Thank you for allowing me to have my say with this submission and be a part of being on the right side of making Australia better.

**Regards,
Amanda Andrews**