

Submission to Phase out of live sheep exports by sea consultation process

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Minister

Thank you for ending live export of sheep from Australia and for the broader *Plan for Strengthening Animal Welfare*. Live export is a cruel practice that has repeatedly been shown to subject Australian animals to inhumane and cruel conditions and treatment. We hope this change has bipartisan support.

This submission urges the government to take the following actions as part of the phase out process:

1. Australians want this trade to end as soon as possible and with certainty. Please legislate for the end of the practice as soon as possible. Letting the practice continue any longer has significant consequences for individual animals and broader agriculture.
2. Live export damages the image of Australia and local industry and makes Australians distrustful of agricultural practices more broadly. Please take urgent and decisive action to show that Australia and local farmers are committed to high standards of animal welfare. Other countries are banning the practice (e.g. Brazil and New Zealand) and Australia risks being seen as a global pariah.
3. Please provide financial support to farmers to assist with the transition away from this practice. Most Australian farmers care for their animals and do not want them subjected to cruelty. Farmers should be assisted to move away from the practice to make this a sustainable change.
4. Please ensure heightened surveillance during the phase-out to ensure best possible practice and documentation of any failings of current regulations to hold operators to account.

Thank you for reviewing this submission.

Yours sincerely

Ben Copeland

