

Submission to Phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

In my opinion as a voter, Mr Albanese made a promise to phase out live sheep exports by sea if he won this election. This was one of his promises. As a Prime Minister of one of the first world countries, Mr Albanese should honour his election promise to the people of Australia, especially those like me, who voted for him on the premise that he would phase out live sheep exports during his current term of office.

Sheep are sentient beings who suffer as we do. Many sheep are put on ships to go to countries where the climate is extremely hot. Sadly, the lucky ones die on the way. The unlucky ones survive to a fate worse than death; some are sold as the ship docks and are picked up and dumped into boots of cars, others are carried as one would an inanimate object to be slaughtered in the most inhumane of ways. From the time they are dumped on the ship, their fate is a horrific one. They live in their own faeces and urine on the ship. I am unsure how well each sheep is fed and watered as some die of heat stroke on the way, some on arrival. Some sheep have the misfortune to be born on the ship, with no hope of living very long. All this because farmers make extra money by sending their living, breathing sheep to other countries by sea, also known as Live Sheep Exports by Sea. Not all farmers choose this method of making money. These are sentient beings. They feel fear, they hurt both emotionally and physically. Just because they are off the land on which they were born, does not mean they cease to exist. Therefore, this phase-out must begin and end as soon as possible. A delay of a day or an hour or a minute means more sheep are subjected to inexcusable suffering, from daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries, not to mention the weather and transportation conditions that these sheep must endure. There is a possibility that Labor may not be re-elected and if a coalition government should be elected, this would be a setback for the efforts to end live export of sheep by sea. But most importantly Mr Albanese would not have kept his promise to phase out live sheep exports by sea.

...contd. page 2

...2...

The type of support farmers receives while the transition occurs is extremely important:

1. Government assistance should be provided for heavy losses incurred.
2. Government opening abattoirs so that sheep can be slaughtered in Australia in a humane way and the meat/whole carcass be exported.
3. In the case of exportation of sheep to Middle Eastern countries, a Mullah or religious person should be employed from within the community, or a Mullah or Religious person be granted a visa for the purpose of blessing the sheep before it is slaughtered, consistent with a halal manner.
4. Points 2 and 3 above would ensure more jobs for Australians which will be a huge benefit to the country and little or no financial loss for the country and farmers. I would like to add here that not all sheep farmers export live sheep. If they can resist, so can ever other farmer.
5. There is an opportunity here to reduce sheep exports and have more plant-based agriculture while saving the environment and reducing land clearing.

It is prudent to mention that Australia does not have a good reputation for animal welfare. Shamefully we rank 49 in the overall cruelty category, 44 in producing cruelty, 50 in consuming cruelty and 34 in sanctioning cruelty. Australia is the worst performer together with Belarus, which is a developing country. Surely, we can do better. New Zealand our neighbour, has recently banned export of live animals. We should follow New Zealand's example and respect the views of the general public over a small portion of the population with vested interests.

Australians want certainty that live sheep export by sea will end. It is also imperative that our Prime Minister, legislate this phase-out in this term of parliament. Mr. Albanese you made a promise, keep it and ensure that the export of live sheep by sea ends as soon as possible.

Corinne Morris

