

## Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

Submission: Christine Beasley 29/05/2023

I have chosen to upload my submission rather than answer the questions as I am providing feedback as a member of the public who seeks to minimise harm and suffering of animals, in this instance, live sheep exports by sea.

I fully support the phase out and would like to see it begin and end as soon as possible. Every delay means the potential for more sheep subjected to intolerable suffering. It is undeniable that the sheep suffer daily stresses of sea transport, however, I also have concerns about their treatment when they arrive in the importing countries, eg, transportation in car boots or strapped to the top of vehicles, and practices of fully conscious slaughter.

Whilst acknowledging that live export is part of the Australian economy, I would like to see it eventually end. I would like to see alternatives to live export explored and implemented. The sooner that this phase out is legislated, the better. I believe that I am just one of many many Australians who want certainty that this trade will end as demonstrated by the loud and strident public uproar following the airing of live sheep export footage on 60 Minutes in 2018.

I have read that the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt have stated the phase out will not take place during the current term of the Australian Parliament to allow for appropriate consideration of options and to give those affected by the phase out the time to prepare for, adjust and transition away from the trade. I am very much in favour of the diversion of resources to determine a phase out within the current term of parliament and I support farmers receiving government support to help them to transition.

I commend the Prime Minister and the Labor government for following up on this important issue, and it was certainly influential in my voting preferences in the last federal election.

Even though I understand that the merits of the government's policy to end the trade are not being considered in this consultation process, it must be acknowledged that this trade is inherently cruel and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea, poor treatment on arrival, and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas. Defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

As climate change has illustrated, the old economic models are no longer working – economic growth must take into consideration other factors such as environment (for decades considered limitless in economic equations), emotional wellbeing, mental health, etc. This phase out provides Australia with an opportunity to develop as a world leader in a new phase of economic growth and development, elevating Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation (note New Zealand's precedent in ending live export).

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.



Christine Beasley