

Submission to the public consultation - The phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

31.05.2023

Debra Abbott

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To The Independent Panel,

I am making this submission in support of the phase out of live sheep export by sea that the Labor government has committed to.

Many Australians, including myself, want certainty that this trade will end. That the phase-out be legislated and commences in this term of parliament. And that it begins and ends as soon as possible.

Please consider Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate, we risk falling behind standards and expectations, especially with welcome precedents being set recently, New Zealand having recently banned all live export.

Considering the extent of community support for this phase out and ban, defending this trade serves to undermine public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

I understand that the merits of the government's policy to end the trade are not being considered – but I would like to stress the animal welfare component as well. This trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

Kind regards,
Debra Abbott

Debra Abbott [REDACTED]