

29/05/2023

Dear Panel Members,

My name is Christine and I am writing this brief submission to firstly express my sincere happiness and gratitude that the cruel and barbaric live export of sheep is finally ending. And, to offer my thoughts on when and how this should/could be implemented.

I have been vehemently opposed to the live export of sheep since the day I learned of its existence. [REDACTED] I had no idea it was a thing. It wasn't until [REDACTED] 2007 that I first saw the death trucks [REDACTED]. I was shocked and saddened to realize that Australia was giving the green light to those who would, for profit, condemn countless millions of poor animals to a long tortuous journey followed by a brutal, cruel death. My uncle told me, many years ago he sold some of his sheep just the once to this vile trade and has felt guilt over it ever since.

Obviously, I would like to see the trade end as soon as possible so no more sheep are condemned to suffer the cruel fate of so many millions before them. There is so much public support for this phase out therefore I believe it should begin and be legislated in this current term of government. Further delay will only mean more suffering. There must be no chance for this trade to remain or be revived. I would be happy to see those farmers involved, who stand to lose business, be fairly compensated to help them transition away from live sheep export.

If New Zealand can end their live cattle trade (which I believe was worth four times as much to them as the live sheep export is to Australia) in two years, then we have NO reason or excuse not to act promptly. We should be world leaders in animal welfare. Anything less is simply unacceptable in my eyes and those of anyone I have spoken to over the years about this cruel trade.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Blakers