

I am calling on you to end Australia's live export trade.

Each year approximately 2.5 million animals are loaded onto live export ships and into cargo holds of planes leaving Australia. These sentient animals suffer through heat stress, disease, unhygienic conditions, starvation, and sometimes even birth despite the fact that pregnant animals are not supposed to be loaded. Allowing this cruelty to continue is unjustified and not in line with current understandings of animal welfare or community expectations.

Previously Australian Governments have turned a blind eye to the suffering of these animals, even despite shocking exposés and calls by millions to ban this cruelty.

Now that New Zealand has and the UK are moving to ban live animal export, the pressure is on for Australia to do the same. If you do not take action we risk becoming a global embarrassment.

Our weak laws have failed these animals long enough. I urge you to listen to the community and animal experts and make a commitment to ban live animal exports in Australia.

The Labor Party has promised for years to do this. I met with [REDACTED] in 2019 and received a phonecall from [REDACTED] in 2020. Both assured me a Labor government would take action to stop live export.

We might as well start with sheep. Better than nothing.

Farmers can be given financial and planning advice to achieve a smooth transition.

I would like the start date to be immediate. Being realistic, the end of the financial year 2025 should be the latest date it is banned.

I don't know what else to say. I've been fighting for this for a long time and I'm burnt out. It's just something that is wrong in this day and age – something which can and should be stopped now.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Duggan

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