

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

***Phase out of live sheep exports by sea***

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and an advocate for animal welfare to express my deep concerns regarding the live sheep export industry in Australia. I kindly request your immediate attention and support to initiate the phase out of live sheep exports from our country.

The live sheep export industry has long been marred by distressing incidents and reports of inhumane treatment of animals during transit. The welfare of millions of sheep is at stake as they endure gruelling journeys across vast distances, often subjected to cramped conditions, extreme temperatures, and inadequate ventilation. These conditions have led to numerous instances of heat stress, disease outbreaks, and even high mortality rates, causing immense suffering and anguish to the innocent animals involved.

Moreover, the inherent risks associated with long-distance live transport pose threats to Australia's reputation as a responsible and compassionate nation. Several countries, including major export destinations, have expressed concern over the treatment of animals during transit and have called for stricter regulations or outright bans on live animal imports. Continuing to export live sheep under these circumstances not only jeopardizes the welfare of the animals but also damages our international standing and trade relationships.

Australia is known for its high animal welfare standards and commitment to sustainable practices. However, the live sheep export trade undermines these values and tarnishes our nation's reputation. Instead, we should focus our efforts on expanding the export of chilled and frozen sheep meat, which ensures the humane treatment of animals and provides economic opportunities for our farmers.

I urge you to take immediate action to commence the phase out of live sheep exports from Australia. This process should be carried out in a manner that prioritizes the welfare of the animals, supports affected farmers in transitioning to alternative industries, and ensures a smooth transition for the entire supply chain. By doing so, we can align our trade practices with modern standards of animal welfare, strengthen our international standing, and protect the livelihoods of our farmers.

I kindly request your commitment and leadership in this matter. Australia has the potential to become a global leader in ethical and sustainable agricultural practices, and phasing out live sheep exports is a crucial step towards achieving this goal. Together, we can create a future where animal welfare and responsible trade go hand in hand.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to hearing about the steps you will take to address these concerns and initiate the necessary actions to begin the phase out of live sheep exports from Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Vaughton and family

