

I would first of all like to note that it was because of this policy and similar ones (environment/ animals) that I supported Labor at the last election. Ending Live Export has been high on my agenda and the agenda of many Australians for many years as many independent polls have shown. It is a shame to Australian politics that this has not happened yet despite public wishes

We want the phase-out to start and end as soon as possible and that means the phase out needs to be legislated and starts in this term of parliament. And that this export fully stops as soon as possible. We have believed in governments for too long who promise one thing but don't do it. And by leaving it too long the Australian public could become disengaged with Labor, seeing it just the same as the Liberal party. That in turn could lead no re-election, creating yet another significant setback.

It is not that we do not want to support farmers. But farmers have always had to be flexible and resilient in order to continue farming in whatever the current climate is. When it was no longer profitable to just farm cattle they would turn to mixed farming, or even farming and hospitality. This is no different. There are many alternatives to supplement their income now. They could transition into plant based meats/ dairy or grains as this is beneficial in climate change and population health. The government may want to give remuneration to meat farms that reforest our land instead (helps climate change targets and provides new forestry source).

There will be many more jobs in Australia too by ending Live Export. Not just in abattoirs (which should all have CCTV and independent inspectors), but in frozen goods and transport chain.

It will help with our international reputation also, which, at present is a poor one. Unlike New Zealand which has soared after banning live export and Brazil is now promising to. They valued the opinion of their general public over the few profiteering from the industry. This is what people want to see.

We have the highest extinction rate in the world thanks to land clearing and indiscriminate shooting of wildlife. "Extreme rates of land clearing placed Australia in the top 10 land clearing nations in the world in 2017 and a WWF report has Australia as the only developed nation among the world's deforestation hotspots. We're still clearing much more native vegetation than is being replanted or regenerating naturally." (Bush Heritage Australia) So maybe it is time to work with meat and dairy farmers to gain better outcomes for animals and humans, and help them transition to a less destructive environment. Factory/ Intensive Farming is one of the worst forms of this industry (for environment and cruelty) and is the one which uses Live Export most.

Every time you delay this means more animals are subject to horrific abuse and suffering. Not least is the daily stresses and often abysmal conditions at sea to the fully conscious slaughter in importing countries. Most Australian would say- this is not us- this is not how we want to be seen. Stop Live Export as soon as possible. Keep your promises.

Yours Sincerely

Diane Roberts

Australian

