

To: The panel discussion on the Phase Out of live sheep exports by sea

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Name: Elizabeth Cayzer



To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the end of live animal exports by sea from Australia. I was surprised but heartened by the commitment that Labor made at the last general election, and this helped sway my vote in support of Labor.

You have committed to phasing out this barbaric export trade and I commend you for that, and I am writing to your committee in support of the phase out beginning as soon as possible to stop this inexcusable suffering of innocent animals from the daily stress of sea transport and the fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

I am sure you have noted that New Zealand are more progressive and have already begun to phase out the trade, even Brazil is looking at ending the live export trade! So, let's not get left behind.

Most Australians support the phase out of the live sheep export, and we all understand the effect financially this will have on farmers that rely on this type of trade. I support the government aiding these farmers to move away from the live animal export trade and look at other alternatives.

Here in Western Australia, the only state that still exports live sheep, there is a lot of noise from the farming sector regarding stopping this trade. They all say that they have animal welfare in mind and 'love' their animals, but I can see and hear the total opposite. These animals are just money to them. I am not advocating that we stop the breeding and killing of animals for food but stop the animal cruelty that happens with the exporting of live animals by sea.

This trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful slaughter overseas.

I support some of the suggested opportunities in your discussion paper like expanding domestic processing and value adding & increasing sheep meat exports as alternatives to the live export trade.

I am not certain of the approach that the other states and territories in Australia made which lead to the ban on live sheep exports, but looking at what they did to support the agriculture industry to transition would be a positive approach. Also take note of the other countries who have also stopped this trade and see what worked with their approach.

I urge the Labor Government to move quickly with this legislation to end the cruel live animal trade with sheep and hopefully continue to look at banning the live cattle export as well. I know you are probably a bit wary of the cattle industry and I am fully aware of the uproar that was received the last time there was a ban, but it shouldn't deter governments from continuing to move to phase out all live animal export.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Cayzer