

29 May 2023

Dear Australian Government,

I am writing this submission as a concerned, and committed, citizen who is thrilled to hear the Australian Government has pledged to end the very cruel practice of live sheep exporting. I am a first generation migrant, from the United States, and have been an Australian citizen for over 20 years now. Learning first-hand the vital role legislation plays in enforcing business changes, I urge Australia to make legal amendments a priority in 2023 to end live trade practices immediately.

To help animal industries, i.e. agriculture, shift to more humane practices requires policy and (re)education that is supported by government. As an educator – a university senior lecturer – at a rural-regional university that specialises in agriculture, as well as a researcher who works and researches in the area of animal welfare and society, it is very timely for agricultural change to prioritise more humane processes. We are a wealthy nation, and very capable of such leadership.

I voted for Labour because of its stance on leading changes that will end animal cruelty. Live export is animal cruelty, not sustainable agricultural business or a practice befitting Australia's international reputation as a legal act or policy. There is no 'lucky country' for an Australian sheep, or any other animal, sent to death by commencing a horrific sea journey that ends in foreign facilities which slaughter using cheap and painful techniques! Animal slaughter practices – including domestic slaughter – are in a sordid state. Ending live export is the first step in a longer journey. Please use your power and authority to bring Australian animal slaughtering law and practice into alignment with humane practices that do not produce unnecessary suffering/pain. This MUST be the norm in a sophisticated nation.

Thank you for supporting my desire for Australia to join other international leaders in animal welfare practices, as a civilised society, because it is ethical and moral to not kill other beings in tortuous ways. Please take whatever legal and political measures are necessary to make the live trade of animals illegal now. Farming must not be synonymous with animal cruelty!

Thank you and kind regards,

Dr. Angela T. Ragusa
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