

Please once again consider the horrendous cruelty which live export animals suffer on these voyages, even short voyages and even in seasons other than summer. These are:

- Cramped so tightly into pens that they can't even lay down for the duration of the voyage - up to three weeks.
- Most are unable to reach water or food which are located at the sides of the pens.
- They have to stand (or lay, if they're too weak) in knee-high excrement and urine. Some are suffocated as a result.
- The gases from the animal waste affects their eyes and the lungs.
- The temperatures can be extremely high because of the cramped conditions, the lack of effective air conditioning and their thick layer of wool. You can see them panting for air. Many animals are literally cooked alive.
- Some pregnant sheep are knowingly allowed on the ship and, when born, suffer a gruesome death.
- Because of the large number of sheep on the ship, the veterinarians are unable to treat the health problems of most of the animals.
- In many middle-eastern destinations many of the animals are treated cruelly, being stowed in extremely hot car-boots and slaughtered without proper precautions to reduce suffering such as we have in place in Australia.

How can farmers who have caringly raised these animals hand them over to exporters and destination countries which treat them with such horrendous cruelty. These animals are gentle, innocent creatures who feel distress, fear and pain just like humans do. Why do we allow them to be treated in such a cruel way which we would not tolerate with our domesticated animals? Is it because we justify their ill-treatment because they're on their way to slaughter anyway, so they don't deserve the same consideration. Is that attitude morally justified? I think not.

There are several groups of people who are responsible for this cruelty. The buyers of the livestock in the destination country, the exporters themselves and, sadly, the farmers who sell the livestock because they would have definitely seen the suffering these animals go through, but they continue to supply them - for the profits they receive.

Please put pressure on the Federal Government to phase out this cruel trade, for conscience's sake.

Please propose the export of chilled meat instead, so that at least the livestock can be slaughtered humanely.

Thanks for reading this letter. Please act for change - for the sake of these beautiful, innocent gentle creatures.