

30 May 2023

Dear Review Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission to the **Phase out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea Review**.

I strongly support the phase-out of live sheep export and want to see the phase-out begin and end as soon as possible. Every delay means more sheep are subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

The live export trade is inherently cruel – and even in the rare cases when all regulations are followed, animals still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

I urge that the phase-out be legislated and commence in this term of parliament and that the phase-out begins and ends as soon as possible.

New Zealand has recently ended live export and, in doing so, has set an example for Australia to follow. New Zealand's landmark ban proves that ending this trade without delay is possible, and past investigations and reviews indicate that a swift shutdown is necessary to prevent the prolonged suffering of animals.

Defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector and reinforces Australia's reputation as an unfair and non-compassionate nation.

In the last election, I voted for the ALP in good faith on this issue and other animal rights, human rights and environmental issues, as did many other Australians. A 2018 poll commissioned by the RSPCA shows that around 3 in 4 Australians want to end live export.

Finally, I don't understand why only live export of sheep will be phased out when all sentient beings can feel fear and suffer pain. I would prefer to see the end of all live animal export implemented as a matter of urgency.

Australia must take a stand against inhumane practices and uphold the rights of animals everywhere. We must be mindful of our actions and recognise that they have consequences, positive or negative, on the lives of animals. By refusing to support animal-based industries that are cruel and exploitative, we can ensure their safety and well-being. Phasing out live export can make a real difference in ending cruelty and protecting the rights of animals everywhere.

Australia must take a stand against the inhumane live export trade and uphold the rights of all animals.

The government made a commitment, supported by the majority of Australians, to end the live export of sheep – which it must now fulfill. I urge Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the Labor government to set Australia down a kinder path by ending the live export of sheep during this elected term and to work quickly towards a future without any live-animal export.

Regards

Heather Laurie