

Submission on live export of sheep

I submit that

The phase out of live export must begin as soon as possible and be completed within a one-year timeframe. Every delay means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries where Australia has no jurisdiction or authority over animal welfare.

Australians want and need certainty that the end of this cruel trade will be legislated as soon as possible, and certainly within this parliamentary term.

Sheep farmers have known that this change is coming so should already be looking at alternative markets eg fresh/frozen/value-added sheep products. Animal husbandry, transport and slaughter can then be subjected to Australian animal welfare standards which the community expects.

Internationally it is time for Australia to join other countries such as New Zealand in ending live export trade. Allowing this trade to continue undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

Many Australian citizens oppose live animal export on the grounds of cruelty, and it is an issue many consider when choosing a political party at election time.

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6th May 2023