

Submission in support of arrangements to end live sheep export from Australia

May 31 2023

I have tracked the growth of this industry from its inception and have felt devastated by every news report about live animal export – which, without exception details the cruelty and inhumanity of the trade. It is beyond my belief how it has taken the Australian government so long to move towards ending this aspect of live animal export and I congratulate the current Labor government for taking on this responsibility. The phase-out must commence immediately. This is to avoid more transport of sheep, subject to inexcusable suffering on boats, then fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

I believe that most Australians want certainty that this trade will end through legislation and have the assurance that it will happen in this term of parliament.

In making this submission I am mindful of the economic costs to farmers who are currently involved in this trade. However, there have been numerous alternative meat producing practices and agriculture marketing models put forward over the years. I cite the extensive research work by Greens Senator Scott Ludlam during his term in parliament, which I have handed to my local MP [REDACTED]. I have spoken with [REDACTED] on several occasions about my concerns in this regard and was gratified to hear her address parliament on several occasions, strongly urging the trade to end. I have voted Labor in the small hope that in doing so, I may support the views within the party that the trade can and will end.

I strongly support any forms of compensation and support to farmers from government, to help them to transition. I also support the Australian government investing in forms of employment to maximise the benefits of processing meat products here in Australia for fast export overseas.

I believe that the impact of live animal exports on Australia's international reputation is concerning; it presents us as hypocritical and opportunist in claiming to uphold principles of humanity and compassion. New Zealand has paved the way for substituting meat production domestically to replace live export and I am grateful that Brazil is reconsidering its role in this market. In this climate, I believe the time is right for trading countries to understand and respect the moral and ethical principles on which our government is basing this decision to end live sheep export.

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