

Georgina Eliason



May 28, 2023

Minister Murray Watt  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
ACT 2600

Dear Minister Watt,

RE: Public Consultation Into The Phasing Out of Live Export

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live export. There are a number of points I would like to make.

1. Improved food security.

In these uncertain times food security should be given paramount importance. By committing to a rapid increase in domestic processing Australia will increase the level of control it has over the export of meat products. It will allow for more flexibility in the export arrangements given that the product will be frozen and can be stockpiled to some extent. This says nothing about the jobs it will create.

2. Leadership in Cultural Civility

By following New Zealand's lead in a timely manner, Australia will reinforce its global position as a fair and progressive nation. The public requires a demonstration that the agricultural sector is flexible and humane in order to sustain trust in the sector. The groundswell movement towards ethically sourced food products extends to our own National treatment of agricultural animals, which leads me to my third point.

3. Animal Welfare

The average member of the public recognises that the export of live animals is inherently cruel. Farmers themselves do not want their animals to suffer. I grant that the Australian Government has tried to regulate the industry to mitigate animal suffering but it has been unsuccessful as it

is impossible. Impossible at a number of levels. Impossible to give any animal any level of comfort on a long sea voyage. Impossible to police sea voyages. Impossible to monitor the treatment that our animals receive once at their destination.

4. Australians expect that this trade will end sooner rather than later

The phase out of live export needs to be legislated and ended as soon as possible. As noted in my previous point the change in public sentiment towards animal welfare is enormous and shows no indication of slowing down. This can be recognised by the swing to eating less meat, high levels of pet ownership and environmental acuity. As a Nation we need to follow Victoria's commitment to end the logging of native forests by the end of the year and end live export quickly.

5. Farmers will require support when ending live export

The support for farmers as a result of the end of this cruel practice can be enhanced by the rapid increase in humane domestic meat processing.

In conclusion, I supported the Labour Government in the last election purely on the basis of your commitment to end live export. I expect that you will be able to honor this commitment in a timely manner with minimal upset to the industry.

Thank you for your commitment to this matter.

Best regards,

Georgina Eliason