

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on live animal export. I believe that the government should ban the live export of animals as this is frightening for the animals on ships, confusing for the animals when they arrive at their destination, and shocking how they are killed. There are some very bad incidents at abattoirs in Australia but at least here we are able to investigate these incidents and hold people accountable for animal suffering. Defending this trade in live export of animals undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

The timeframe to implement the phase out should only be long enough to inform the countries affected that live meat will no longer be available and chilled, pre-butchered meat will be substituted. This will require more abattoirs in Australia, more butchers, and appropriate refrigeration to be installed. As more people are eating less meat in Australia these days, butchers will be kept in work by servicing the export market.

Exporters will need to install refrigeration to service the export trade but the cost will be somewhat off-set by the higher price of pre-butchered meat. Farmers will be sending their animals to an Australian abattoir, or diversifying their produce to cater for new tastes, or keeping less animals and growing more crops to cater for the population that will be eating less meat. Other businesses across the supply chain will have an opportunity to find new and innovative products that are acceptable to both the domestic and overseas markets. This is a time for innovation and change and this would be the case if there were sudden changes in animal health, consumers' changing tastes, or any other reason that less animals are available for 'business as usual'.

Support and adjustment options for those impacted by the phase out are similar to those adapting and coping with climate change. Development needs to happen, risks need to be taken, and new consumers need to be found.

There will be many opportunities for those affected, including options to expand domestic processing and increase sheep meat exports. Recently there has been a big uptake in plant-based meat but further development could occur by developing ready-made meals using plants either as a meat substitute or using lentils and beans as a protein source. Many people hold off becoming vegetarians because they don't know how to prepare meals without meat.

I trust that the government will ban live export of animals in the near future to stop the suffering of animals. Australians want certainty that this trade will end. That the phase-out be legislated and commences in this term of parliament. It needs to begin and end as soon as possible.