

Live Export of sheep by sea is an abhorrent trade which should be phased out as quickly as possible for many reasons.

The most important of these is the terrible suffering of the animals from the effects of long voyages by sea and the end brutality of conscious slaughter.

However, it is also apparent that Australia's reputation is under threat for its treatment of farm animals. The World Animal Protection's official rankings grade Australia as 'marginal', which is not how most Australians would want their country to be seen in terms of animal welfare.

For the farmers, whose livelihoods depend on this trade, there should be government aid available to support the quickest possible end to Live Export by sea. If, as is argued by some in farming circles, farmers dependent on the live export of sheep by sea are unable to make a living without its continuing, assistance should be a combination of

financial support and free training for transition to other industries or other types of farming, perhaps more environmentally friendly farming.

This could be an excellent opportunity for the farmers and for the Australian community as a whole. It should be expedited as quickly as possible.

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