

28 May 2023

For Attention of:

Mr Phillip Glyde

Mr Warren Snowdon

Ms Sue Middleton

Ms Heather Neil

Dear Panel Members

RE: Live Export Phase Out

I am a concerned citizen and have actively protested and contacted various politicians since the dreadful footage of 'Tommy' in 2011, in an effort to bring attention to the plight of all animals who suffer in the Australian live export industry. I would like to see all live export completely phased out, but I understand the panel are considering the phase out of Australian sheep who continue to be live exported primarily to the Middle East.

One of the main reasons I voted for Mr Albanese and the Labor Party at the last federal election was due to serious concerns regarding the continuing terrible cruelty of live export, and the fact that Mr Albanese committed to ending this practice. I was of the understanding that this would happen, during the current term that the Labor Party are in power. I am very concerned that Mr Albanese appears to be attempting to walk back on his promise regarding this. Without an end date, there will be no commitment to change or phase out, by the industry.

I would strongly urge the panel to consider phasing live export out, with urgency, within the current federal government term, before 2025. Sheep continue to experience appalling conditions on live export ships, and the cruelty of slaughter in the Middle East is undeniable, with sheep having their throats cut, in what is an abhorrent and torturous death. They are often thrown into the back of car boots, and suffer immeasurably during the transport as a result of terrible heat. It is simply not acceptable, that this practice should continue. We wouldn't accept this cruelty for our companion animals, so why should gentle sheep, who are sentient beings, suffer this terrible treatment?

I note that New Zealand have already phased live export out. Live export of sheep is not acceptable to New Zealand, and should not be for Australia either. In fact, the poll conducted by RSPCA in January 2022, found that 67% of Australians want an end to Live Export, and further, that 2/3rd of the people polled were from regional Australia!! Live export has absolutely no social license to continue, is not particularly significant to the gross domestic product, and needs to be ended with urgency.

I am aware that the end of this cruel industry will have an impact on a small number of exporters, and more specifically on the farm workers employed by the large corporations who are exporting sheep to the Middle East. I would urge the panel to recommend to the government, that these workers be supported to develop new skills, that the corporations employing them also be given a 6-12 month timeframe to change their business model. These organisations have known since 2011 that the industry was not sustainable and unsupported. That is a period of 12 years. They have the capacity to change their business model and develop alternate industries eg. Export of chilled meat, or development of plant based products. There are opportunities associated with ending the cruelty, and the industry is in serious decline anyway. Please support workers via a just, but urgent transition with an end date in the next 2 years.

In closing, I would urge the panel to make strong recommendations around ending this industry with a rapid phase out, before the next federal election. It is simply unacceptable, that a small amount of profit is being placed before animal welfare, against the majority of Australian citizens' wishes. This government were voted in based on the promises they made. Please do not allow them to break these promises and continue the terrible treatment of Australian sheep by the live export industry. Please tell Mr Albanese that he needs to commit to an end date to the cruelty, and legislate to this effect now.

Thankyou for considering my submission, I appreciate your time.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Perry

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