

16 May 2023

Regarding: The Urgent Need to Phase Out Live Animal Export from Australia

As an advocate for animal welfare, I voted for Labor as they committed to ending live export. The phase-out must begin, and live export ceased as soon as possible. Delaying this crucial action only perpetuates the inexcusable suffering endured by countless animals, from the distress of sea transport to the harrowing reality of fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

Australians demand certainty that this trade will end. It is imperative that the phase-out is legislated and commences during this parliamentary term, with a clear timeline for implementation. Furthermore, adequate government support must be provided to assist farmers in transitioning to alternative industries.

The live export trade has had a detrimental impact on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation. New Zealand has already ended live export, and Brazil is on the cusp of doing the same.

By continuing this abominable trade, we undermine public trust in our agricultural sector and perpetuate the perception that we prioritise profit (greed) over ethical considerations.

Animal welfare is at the heart of this issue. Even with strict regulations in place, the inherent cruelty of this trade cannot be eliminated. Sheep suffer from heat stress during long sea journeys, and they often face painful, un-stunned slaughter upon arrival in foreign countries. It is our moral duty to protect these innocent beings from such unnecessary suffering.

To ensure that the phase-out occurs promptly and effectively, the government must legislate an end date within this term of Parliament. Failure to do so would prolong uncertainty for Australian farmers and further damage our international reputation. By setting a clear timeline for the phase-out, we can demonstrate our commitment to animal welfare and reaffirm Australia's standing as a compassionate nation.

It is essential that the government fulfills its promise to Australians and takes decisive action to end live animal export. The time for change is now, and we must work together to bring about a more humane and ethical future for our agricultural industry.

I look forward to seeing some firm action and appreciate your time in considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Kerryn Marlow