

SUBMISSION ON PHASE-OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this issue, which so many Australians are concerned about.

My vote for the Labor Party at the last two federal elections was based PRINCIPALLY on the party's commitment to end the cruel trade of live sheep exports. I applauded the coming to office of a government ready to act humanely instead of in the sole interests of the almighty dollar.

We now have the example of New Zealand making the decision to end live exports entirely, and a Federal Court in Brazil, the world's largest exporter of live cattle, has ordered a stop to these exports based on Animals Australia's evidence of the brutal slaughter practices faced by the animals at their destination.

Similar fates await the sheep sent from Australia, if they survive the heat stress and other risks of the voyage itself. A dreadful, frightening journey, ending in painful, fully conscious slaughter.

All this means that the time frame for ending this cruelty needs to be as tight as possible. Every day that passes means more animals are suffering.

Australia's international reputation, and the reputation of our agricultural sector, is damaged by every image and reminder of the treatment received by these innocent animals taken from quiet pastures, crammed into trucks and ships, and then horrendously killed.

We must be better than this. We must focus on how quickly we can phase out such an appalling business. I encourage the Government to support farmers in that transition, but not to listen to special pleading from people who knew years ago that a Labor Government would seek to end this dreadful trade.

Who would wish to say that their income is from brutality and barbarity?

Please, phase out the practice as soon as possible; ordinary Australians will be cheering all the way.

LOUISE WEBB

4 May 2023