

28 June 2023

Ref: Submission to the Live Sheep Exports by Sea Consultation Process

To the panel members,

My name is Louise Harrison and I am adding my voice to those of many others, to urge the current government to fulfill their election promise to phase out the export of live sheep by sea during this term.

The reason that this is important to me is that I am a lifelong animal lover and animal advocate, and aligning with my morals in relation to animal welfare, I am a vegan, I work for an animal charity and am a member of the Animal Justice Party. I am part of a very fast-growing movement that recognises the rights of all sentient beings and is ready to fight for those rights.

Animal welfare is my main concern in this issue. The enormous animal suffering and cruelty involved in the live export of sheep by sea is an utterly unacceptable fate for these sentient beings. The heat stress, illness, injuries and death, lack of veterinary care onboard, lack of independent observers, impact on vets and workers and the millions of sheep affected, determine this as a truly abhorrent trade.

At home it has been shown that public opinion is strongly against the live export of sheep by sea and internationally the reputational damage to Australia due this cruel trade and the resistance from successive governments and industry to reform, is substantial.

There is a plethora of alternatives, especially in alternative plant-based proteins, where significant Research and Development is already occurring most notably in both the USA and Europe. There needs to be investment and funding into transitioning farmers away from the breeding of live sheep for export and channelled into the many options for alt protein development and crop farming opportunities, which are completely realistic, suitable for Australian agriculture and obtainable in a reasonable timeframe. In all honesty Australia is a long way behind the rest of the developed world in taking advantage of these opportunities and we need to act in a timely fashion in order to avoid any further cruelty and suffering to animals subjected to live export.

The timeframe: I am calling for this to be decided, legislated and implemented in this term of government. My reason for an immediate action is that, any day that goes by, is one day too many for the millions of sheep experiencing unimaginable cruelty and suffering as a result of this trade. The weight of evidence shows that this must end. The government funding of support for transitioning to the many alternative farming (and other) opportunities must be advanced immediately.

In summary, I call upon the panel members to consider the unimaginable suffering of sentient beings and urge them to recommend that the government, without delay and in this term, phase out and legislate against any future live export of sheep by sea.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Louise Harrison