

30 May 2023

I'm adding my voice to the many compassionate Australians urging the Federal Government to set an end date – this term of Parliament – to wipe out the Live Animal Exports trade, forever! An end date for this industry/trade **must** be legislated **immediately**, and well before the next federal election. It's imperative that this is implemented, now!

I call on the Federal Government to set the end date (this term of Parliament), as it's vital to ensuring the phasing out of Live Animal Exports occurs, and to avoid prolonged uncertainty for Australian farmers. It's also vital to call an end to the atrocities within the Live Animal Exports trade and to ensure Australia's international (bad) reputation for animal welfare, doesn't go beyond rectification to complete destruction. Our country neighbours – New Zealand – have set the precedence in ending Live Animal Exports – if they can do it, so can we! The world focus and admiration of the New Zealand people is paramount.

I want certainty that this trade will end, and end quickly. Therefore, it's imperative that the Government states very clearly, its intent to bring an End to Live Animal Exports. The only way the Government will convince people it's committed to the change is to STATE THE DATE when this horrendous trade will cease (and it must cease soon. Animals have been suffering far too long.) This will only be achieved when the Federal Government legislates and commences the phasing out in this term of Parliament. Defending this despicable trade in live animals, undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural industry.

Sheep suffer throughout the live export journey, which can take months, and welfare issues are cumulative and inherent across the supply chain. Animals are at risk of suffering extreme heat stress, poor conditions and overcrowded stocking densities that increase discomfort, and can limit access to food and water for the animals.

The animals are at risk because of the unavoidable reality that live export leads to weeks of stressful circumstances for the sheep including repeated handling by unfamiliar people, standing in their own faeces and urine, unfamiliar environments with loud noises, varied ventilation, high humidity, mistreatment and inhumane slaughter practices once they disembark at their destination. The Live Animal Exports industry is inherently cruel and even when regulations are (mostly) followed, the sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter in foreign countries.

This disgraceful industry/trade is all about to change ...for the better for the animals, I pray.

I note that the Federal Government has reaffirmed their commitment to transitioning away from live sheep export to a better future, once and for all. And the Federal Government has now appointed the independent panel to consult on how and when this transition should take place. That's 'you people'! The life and wellbeing of Australian stock animals are in your hands, and you must make the compassionate, and rightful ruling, to ensure a termination date to end all Live Animal Exports is implemented – soonest! It's your decision to ensure a sound transition away from (in this instance) Live Sheep Exports, for the transition to take place and that must begin with 'naming the date' that this is to be enforced from.

Most importantly right now, the Government must **legislate an end date**, this term of Parliament – otherwise, this important transition to End Live Animal Exports may not happen and further subjection to countless more sheep, to this unacceptable torture of an inhumane slaughter, will continue.....and we cannot let this go on any longer.

Every delay, in not implementing an immediate end to Live Animal Exports, means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

I support the Australian Farmers – appreciate that their livelihood is placed upon the animals. However, there needs to be a fast-tracked program to divest ‘live exports’ to ‘slaughter – humanely’ on home ground. It’s the right thing to do (for the animals) and a future way forward for the Farmers. Without our Farmers – the backbone of our wonderful Country – we couldn’t thrive as a population. Therefore, we must evolve to implement a humane process to slaughter (for exporting animal flesh) and ‘Live Exports of Animals’ must be eradicated from the industry.

In the meantime, until there is a total end to this disgraceful industry, I pray there are no more ships that leave **any** Australian ports with animals on them, who are forced to endure unbearable conditions; upon a filthy ship; destined for a country with copious amounts of animal cruelty for every animal that disembarks! – it’s not a pleasant voyage for the animals!

This torture must end, and it must end now, as today - is the day - to bring an end to the torture. Today - is the day - to mark as the beginning of the end of Live Animal Exports – today...this date....is when you, the Panel, need to state as the date to implement an immediate phasing out of Live Animal Exports.

The future is a kinder future without Live Animal Exports. End it now, please? Open your hearts and feel their pain – you, the Panel, are the final voice for the sheep, and other Live Animals destined to be exported and suffer a horrendous death.....hear their cries but please end their pain.

Thank you.

Maria Ferraro

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I’d also like to include my submission from the ‘Review of the Live Sheep Exports by Sea – Northern Hemisphere’, which I submitted back in January 2022 – it has much bearing on the current matter dealing with ending Live Sheep Exports

Review of live sheep exports by sea to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer Draft report December 2021

27 January 2022

With regards to the review of the regulatory settings for live sheep exports to/through the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere Summer, I’d like to through my support to **not continuing** this brutal trade.....in any season.

Reviewing conditions aboard vessels can be done numerous times however, the voyage outcome is still disastrous – animals suffer and die and if they survive the horrendous trip, a brutal and inhumane death awaits them. As a citizen of Australia, I am appalled that we are still even discussing the transporting of live animals anywhere around the world – it’s time to stop this brutal trade once and for all.....and this review should be the last of its kind!

The Australian people have lost hope that the 'McCarthy review' is anything but independent – the conditions on ships are appalling and no glossy report is going to change the mind of the people – we've seen the evidence and those images are imprinted upon our brains.....this trade just has to stop – here and now! Amending and reviewing Regulatory Settings do not change the fact that animals are being tortured....to death in many cases, aboard ships. There is no value in these regulations that ensure the wellbeing of these animalsand there is no need to sustain the live sheep export industry. Subsequently, seeking advice from an independent Heat Stress Risk Assessment (HSRA) technical reference panel, about moving from an HSRA based on mortality to one based on welfare, is not going to eliminate the fact that animals (sheep) are being inhumanely treated by sending them half way around the world to be slaughtered. Like the manufacturing industry in this country – this industry too had to die!

My feedback on the draft report is as follows:

- Voyage data and reports
 - Unacceptable to implement subsequent regulatory changes such as providing sheep with more space during voyages and managing the extreme heat - a prohibition on all sheep voyages from Australia needs to be forever, not only during the hottest, most humid period of the Northern Hemisphere summer. This concept might be strongly supported by the industry, with the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC) – it is not supported at all by the people of Australia!
 - There is no excuse for animal abuse and stating that “the primary objectives of government action were to improve animal welfare outcomes”including maintaining a viable live sheep export trade supported by improved animal welfare outcomesis totally unacceptable and doesn't appear to be what's happening in reality – animals are still being inhumanely treated.
- Scientific literature
 - All the models in the world and all the analysis undertaken 'colours' the waters to make the Live Export Industry look to be considering the wellbeing on animals.
 - Words chosen in this report are “best available” – which doesn't – in my view – confirm that every 'adequate' investigation has been placed in the reports, nor for the review by the 'Body'.
 - Academic research.....have any of these 'academic's' actually been on a voyage with sheep?so how can their views be in the best interests of the animals?
 - Voyage reports – have they been selectively chosendo they truly show what the statistics are in reality?
 - Who are the ones onboard doing the observations during the voyages in May 2019?
 - In order to obtain a clear and accurate observation, surely every voyage should have been monitored – only then, would there be a proper and accurate account of the shipment of live animals abroad.
- Bureau of Meteorology data and climate analysis
 - Although noting in the report that there has been significant advances in available climate and meteorological data since the Bureau of Meteorology conducted an analysis in 2019, however, with 'climate change', the world is only getting hotter.
 - I welcome the findings by the BOM that their review indicate it remains appropriate to use a prohibition in relation to 'heat stress' in sheep during export by sea to, or through, the Middle East during the hottest part of the Northern Hemisphere summer.
 - It's pleasing to know that proposing absolute prohibition periods on the departure of live sheep exports by sea from Australia to the Middle East during the hottest, most humid part of the

Northern Hemisphere summer where heat stress risks in live sheep export voyages cannot effectively be mitigated, hence the need to end Live Animal Exports.

I'm truly not sure why Australia is even considering supporting the Live Animal Export of Sheep, especially during Summer – this is just an absolute ridiculous industry to support (Live Animal Exports). If this industry is to continue shipping live animals abroad, then it's purely for money.....animal welfare isn't even a factor in the process. It's an abhorred plan to continue with this disgraceful industry.

I pray my feedback addresses all aspects of live animal exports – not only 'temperature stress in relation to the export of live sheep to the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere Summer', which is a very small part of the overall issues dealing with this despicable trade.

The underlying fact about this industry is that it continues to 'reap money off the back of the sheep'. Animal welfare isn't even in the forefront of the decision makers mind.

Down the track, no matter how many rules, regulations, processes and the like are put in place for the protection of the animals, the greedy shipping company; Agriculture industry and Government will always start to let the little 'rule slippage' apply and we'll end right back to animal mortality at sea.

Other countries in Europe have set about implementing an end to the Live Export Trade – it's time Australian comes to the forefront of this disgraceful industry and paves the way to ending this trade. I'd like for this export trade to end immediately – is a national disgrace that animal torture of this magnitude takes place from our shores.