

[REDACTED]

29th May 2022

Submission regarding Ending Live Sheep Export (and all live export).

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my very strong opinion regarding the cruelty of live export of animals (in this case, sheep).

I am a General Practitioner, with an interest in the the welfare of people and animals. I work with the general population in [REDACTED] and with disabled children, and elderly and palliative care patients in [REDACTED] NSW. My aim is to alleviate suffering and to promote good health. I am also a concerned member of the public, an Australian citizen since 1993, born and brought up in New Zealand, with a father from a farming family, I would like to make the following submissions:

The Labor Party made it part of their recent election promise that they would end Live Sheep Export by sea (at this time it does not seem mean a commitment to end live export by other means, nor does it include the equally unsatisfactory export of live cattle and other animals.). I support this promise for the following reasons:

Suffering:

- This is unacceptable.
- The journey y sea is long and arduous.
- The conditions are horrific (as we have seen)
 - animals walking in faeces,
 - an accepted “Loss” of a certain percent (which means literally hundreds of deaths)
 - Pregnant ewes being shipped, with lambs suffering as well.

- The handling of the sheep is at the other end is inhumane, without any control (for example people in Saudi Arabia deriving off with live sheep in their car boots)
- The slaughter is horrific and painful-there is no stunning and no control over the way the slaughter takes place.

Phase out:

- I would be glad if this trade stopped immediately.
- I understand that a phase-out is planned.
- I would support this phase out take place as soon as possible.
- I would also support:
 - A change to processing here in Australia.
 - Development of new markets and/or education of the old markets (New Zealand has just ceased live export of sheep, and Brazil is moving that way).
 - Support and education for farmers-to ensure they can have certainty about the future and retain and build their mental health (another huge issue).

Mean what we say:

- Australians want to be certain that this trade will end.
- We want the phase out to be covered by rigorous legislation.
- This legislation needs to be **completed within the current term of parliament**-no one wants to get the will to end the suffering, only to have the legislation languish.

Australia in the world:

- Australia does not have a good reputation for animal welfare (kangaroos, koala habitat....
- New Zealand has managed to cease live export of sheep by sea, and they are a smaller country, with fewer resources, however the cruelty of the trade has led to a decision to stop.
- The Australian public is becoming aware of the way their farmed animals are treated-to their increasing disgust. By continuing to defend the suffering of live animals exported by sea, we lose trust and confidence in our agricultural sector.
- Australia continues to allow disgusting practices even on her own soil, for example the unregulated “regulated” slaughter of our iconic kangaroo; or decimation of the iconic koala habitat, the list goes on...

Labor’s election promises:

- I voted for Labor because of their promise to end live export.
- I also voted for Labor for other reasons as well (First Nations Health, Welfare and Acknowledgment being **number 1**).
- It was a very moving and proud moment (as someone who has received Australian Citizenship in Bankstown, NSW in 1993) to see Mr Albanese present citizenship certificates on Australia Day.
- I want to be an Australian who stands for integrity, decency, equality, and against cruelty and suffering.

Animal welfare overall:

- The Live export trade-of sheep and cattle and other animals- is cruel.
- Even when the regulations are fulfilled, they are a minimum, and animals still suffer heat stress, die, and suffer un-stunned slaughter (and other unspeakable treatment) overseas.
- Handling overseas has been shown to be brutal and horrendous.

Alternatives:

- Chilled meat.
- Look at long term sustainability of the different options.
- Although Saudi Arabia may want live sheep, they do not pay the price of the suffering.
- Ultimately, we need to stand as a nation that abhors cruelty (and ultimately there is cruelty evidence in all animal agriculture-but this is not the place to go into that).
- Over time, there will be an appreciation of the cruelty of factory farming, and now is a good time to explore alternatives.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I do earnestly appreciate the freedom we have in Australia to express our opinions and to have our voices heard.

Yours sincerely

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