

## LIVE EXPORT SUBMISSION

Firstly I would like to thank the Albanese Government for agreeing to phase out and ultimately end, the live export trade for sheep by sea. Ideally this would extend to cattle as well and apply to all versions of live export – air and sea. As we all know, this is a cruel industry that no living creature should be subjected to and as has been shown by previous failures, cannot be regulated in terms of animal welfare once those animals leave our shores.

Please see my feedback below regarding the phase out:

**Legislate the phase-out and commence in the current term of government:** It is disappointing that we won't see the phase out commence in the current term of government. If the Labor government is not re-elected live export will continue under a Liberal government. We are told exporters and farmers want certainty, well the public want certainty too. We want certainty that this abhorrent trade will end sooner rather than later. The phase-out should be legislated and commence in the current term of government. The writing has been on the wall for at least 12 years, since the Gillard Government temporarily banned live cattle exports to Indonesia. How much longer are we going to wait before we act?

**Support for industry players:** Industry players should receive support during the phase out. In the same way as we are planning to transition from fossil fuels to green energy, we need to emphasise the myriad of possibilities available as "one door closes and another opens". Vegetarianism and veganism is steadily growing, especially with Gen Z and Millennials. Plant-based agriculture offers a sustainable and environmentally friendly option for farming transition and is a growing industry. Of course, increased domestic meat processing will offer additional employment and a range of opportunities for those who wish to remain in the meat industry. The key here is promoting **POSITIVITY** and putting real foundations in place to transition quickly. We have talked about this for years, now we need timely action. No more kicking the can down the road.

**International reputation:** When countries such as the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland), New Zealand and Brazil are banning live export of animals, Australia languishes behind the pack. We are showcasing ourselves as laggards on the international stage, only at the stage of discussing pathways to transition from live export and the ban not even being implemented within the next three years. We have shown enthusiastic commitment to a much greater international presence regarding the environment, why haven't we got the same sense of urgency and commitment for the banning of live export for all animals?

As the famous Mahatma Ghandi quote says *"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."*

Step up Australia – we really are not that great. We need to stop pandering to the loud voices of industry stakeholders and do what is right – not what is easy and do it as a matter of urgency.

Be positive, be bold, be innovative and take all stakeholders along for the ride. This can be a win/win for humans and animals alike if we make the banning of live export a priority and use actions rather than words.