

To: The Australian Government

Dear Australian Government representative,

Subject: Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

The Albanese government's promise to end live sheep exports by sea has been an election promise that has brought together Australian voters as finally something to believe in – a real show of compassion for those who cannot speak for themselves. In my personal life, Australian voters have been embarrassed and sickened that a progressive, modern nation like Australia is participating in live export, when other parts of the world – New Zealand and Europe, have ended or are in the process of ending this abhorrent practice.

Timeframe & Mechanism to enforce

- Start of new financial year, 1 July 2023 for all NEW contracts. Existing contracts up until the end of 1st quarter of the year to be honoured. No new contracts to be permitted – department of agriculture to cease export permission. Inspectors to be employed to check for illegal exports during the phaseout period and for the 2 years thereafter.
- All saleyards to have explicit contracts to be signed by farmer and live export company acknowledging their part in this practice with a fee to be paid to cover the cost of several veterinarians, medicine and euthanasia equipment to travel with the poor sheep until this practice is ended
- Concessions to be offered to farmers who reduce breeding of sheep or stop altogether, with assistance to be provided to transition to more profitable and less morally and environmentally damaging work

Impact and Adjustment

- The only winners in live export are the middlemen and larger corporations, as prices offered to farmers are low and they are unlikely to break even or make a profit in this enterprise
- The animals that we are morally responsible for providing welfare and compassion as a bare minimum will not suffer horrific travel, sickness, ill treatment and a painful death
- Farmer mental health is adversely affected by the brutal way the animals are treated. Often the sheep have been purchased without telling the farmers what their sad end would be. Australian farmers already have to contend with draught and floods, this would be one way to help their already fragile mental health

Opportunities

- Tourism (improvement of Australia's reputation)
- Allow over grazed land to recover in part, with the other parts to be used for growing plants – vegetables and fruit, in particular protein crops such as soy and other beans

- Allow portion of land to be re-wilded to assist Australia's plan to reduce carbon footprint and emissions
- Assist mental health of sheep farmers
- Win voter confidence

Thank you for listening to the Australian people.

We hope the Australian government will act immediately and not wait 3 years – so much harm has been done already, let us stop this barbarism PLEASE.

Best regards,

Mrs Marzena Jensen

