

25 May 2023

**Submission - Phase out of live sheep exports by sea - Public Consultation**

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Australian Government

To whom it may concern,

I write to provide a personal submission in support of the Phasing out of live sheep exports by sea.

I voted for Labor in the last Federal Election for a number of reasons, including their commitment to phase-out this cruel industry. I am happy to see that a Public Consultation is now under way, however I believe it is important the introduction of the necessary legislation be completed in the current term of parliament, and that the phase-out commences as soon as possible.

For a long time I have held the belief that live sheep exports are inherently cruel to animals that have generally been raised by caring farmers in Australia. I am at a loss to understand why the export of Australian meat to foreign markets could not be conducted via the establishment of advanced tertiary processing plants here in Australia. These plants, aimed at producing meat suitable for export, would provide extra income to Australia as well as providing many jobs in regional towns.

Certainly in any phase-out of live exports by sea, I believe all affected farmers should receive Government support to help them transition.

I believe the live sheep export industry is poorly regulated. The poor regulations result in Australian sheep suffering and dying at sea. The sheep that do survive the sea journey are often subjected to painful, cruel and un-stunned slaughter in poorly regulated overseas markets.

I note that New Zealand has recently set a precedent in ending the live export trade. As an older Australian I would like to see Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation, be enhanced by the phase out of live exports by sea, as soon as possible.

Regards,

Paul Links

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Paul Links.