

## PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this consultation, I very much appreciate your time.

My name is Patricia Mackevicius. I live in [REDACTED], am a concerned member of my local and the broader [REDACTED] community as well as a member of the Animal Justice Party. I believe I speak for all caring Australians.

I am deeply concerned about live sheep exports, the suffering endured by these sentient beings, I fully support this phase out. It is my understanding that caring Australians want certainty that this horrific trade will end, the cruelty, horror and suffering will end. Those ships are truly hell holes. I would question anyone about showing a group of children around one of these ships and explaining what we as a nation do to these animals in the name of trade. It's the stuff of nightmares. And I hate to think what happens to the ones that survive the journey. A shocking journey too, sheep suffer heat stress at sea, are often fly blown and covered in their own faeces. When they arrive in the so-called slaughterhouses, the poor creatures are subjected to painful un-stunned slaughter.

I also wish to note those of us (myself included) who supported Labor at the last election because of this policy.

After Animals Australia's multiple investigations into the live sheep trade, multiple major media exposés and then a shipping catastrophe that had the entire nation in shock, we are now in a situation where we have agreement for the Australian Government to bring this horrific trade to an end. Unfortunately, it has to be via a phase out rather than an end and I want that day to be as soon as possible rather than dragged out with more sheep suffering because as Australians we cannot bring ourselves to do the right thing. I do understand that the phase out needs to be legislated, however needs to begin and end as soon as possible.

Another of my major concerns is the impact of this trade on Australia's reputation as a fair and compassionate nation. New Zealand has done it, we are seriously lagging. And not just in the live sheep trade area. After all, animal sentience is not even explicitly recognised in Australian law, either at Commonwealth or at state and territory level. So, we as a nation have a long way to go. My thoughts are that defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

I am a vegan and don't consume or wear any animal products at all. So, the next points are my views in the context of this consultation.

- Please note my support for farmers to receive applicable government assistance to help them transition.
- I do understand that the phase out needs to be legislated, however needs to begin and end as soon as possible.
- Surely there are opportunities to expand domestic processing and increase sheep meat exports. I would think this should create new jobs in Australia and provide the government with the opportunity to improve our animal welfare standards.