

25 May 2023

### Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on live sheep exports.

Animal welfare is very important to me and I believe that all animals, domestic pets, farm animals and wild animals, need to be treated with respect and be protected from any unnecessary cruelty whenever or wherever it occurs.

Animals Australia, RSPCA and other similar credible organizations have for many years now documented the cruelty of the live sheep export trade. Graphic images of unbelievable cruelty being metered out to these poor creatures have been made public on a far too regular basis and are indisputable. Obscene cruelty is the hallmark of this industry.

Despite continued assurances from the industry that all is well, it is obvious that this is not the case. History has shown that “all is well” is only until the next horror is exposed. It is inconceivable to me that an industry can think that tens of thousands of sheep can be crammed into an environment completely foreign to them for weeks on end, and that this is not a potential disaster waiting to happen in every single case. Images of sheep drowning in faeces six inches deep is something I do not want to see ever again. To me this is an industry which has always seemed to be woefully incompetent, delusionary, devious and disingenuous.

Sadly, those poor creatures that survive the sickening trip are then exposed to treatment that would not be allowed in Australia. Most will be killed in slaughterhouse with little to no animal welfare standards. Others are stuffed into car boots for live home slaughter, or for some other kind of ritual killing. Unfortunately, most of the exports are to countries whose views on the treatment of animals are very different to what we expect in a modern Australia in 2023.

Live export is not critical to the overall Australian meat industry, with boxed meat exports being worth many times more. Chilled Halal certified meat is sent to every country which receives our live animals, and sheep processed domestically contribute more than live sheep sent overseas. Local jobs lost in the live export trade could be replaced by employment in local meat processing facilities.

This industry should have realised, long ago, that the writing was on the wall for their obscene trade, and should have been making alternative arrangements for their future.

For far too long now we have been promised, by various Governments, that decisive action would be taken to end live exports, but sadly these promises have not been fulfilled.

I call on you to respect the ongoing massive public outrage against this trade and immediately impose a total ban on this vile industry...

No lengthy phase-out period is warranted

No half measure will do!

Thank You

Rod Tetlow