

Submission to The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to End Live Exportation of Australian Animals

31 May 2023

I live in [REDACTED] and am aware that once many animals leave the farm gates their fate can be one of live export. I have stopped eating lamb and beef that is not locally killed and processed for this reason. I will not support the appalling live export industry .. and that includes any farmers whose animals end up enduring this cruel fate.

The current Labour Gov't has given it's guarantee that it will phase out this practice which has robbed Australians of the jobs we could have created here in the local livestock processing sector. Abattoirs are awful places but at least when on our own soil there are basic animal welfare laws and regulations governing the treatment of these creatures.

Following on from local killing of Australian meat animals are the industries that process and add value to this home grown resource. Most of the products and indeed the bio mass of the animals that are slaughtered and consumed here makes it's way back into our food systems. This is vitally important cycling of nutrients on a land mass that is losing it's top soil and fertility at an alarming rate ("Soil" Matthew Evans)

With the end of Live Export Australians will again develop the meat processing industries we used to have in this country .. providing employment for many and a greater sense of care for the animals we produce in this country.

The middle eastern countries do indeed want our meat. We can meet the religious processing requirements of the Islamic world here .. but with the absolute proviso that the animals do not suffer live throat slitting. My father killed on sheep a week on our farm for our food .. hanging the animal to drain the blood and skin and butcher it. We must not bow to the silly religious traditions when these go against the grain of our education and understanding of such cruel practices as are practiced in the middle east.

It simply is not okay for our pasture animals to endure what is for them a torture away from the space to move around, in a prison ship where the temperatures, enclosed conditions and build up of excrement and urine are not conducive to the basic wellbeing of these animals.

The live export industry and the farmers who supply have shown time and time again that they have no interest in or feeling for the animals they produce and transport. Factory farming methods have reduced the care factor for the industry as a whole .. and this pervasive attitude when accepted by the wider community either through ignorance of the practices or desensitisation is a very sad sign for our National persona and psyche.

I read from an elderly lady faced with the images of dying sheep drowning in their excrement on one of these hell ships " I am ashamed to be part of a species that accepts that this is how we treat animals".

I request that the Gov't discontinues the horrific live export trade as promised within it's current term.. supporting and funding Australian processing of our live stock in Australia whilst implementing the strictest animal welfare regulations and laws.

Robyn Guy

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