

I am writing to urgently address the issue of live export of sheep and cattle from Australia. It is imperative that you take immediate action to end this cruel and inhumane practice that continues to cause immense suffering and loss of innocent lives.

Over the years, Australians and people worldwide have been appalled by the distressing reports and investigations revealing the agonizing experiences of sheep on board export ships. The heart-breaking deaths and widespread suffering of these animals should have no place in any country. The government has made a commitment, backed by the majority of Australians, to end the live export of sheep, and it is now time to fulfil that promise.

We must not ignore the fact that tens of thousands of sheep have already perished on these voyages, and countless more will endure further abuse, pain, and potentially horrendous deaths if this trade continues. The urgency to act cannot be overstated, as each day that passes prolongs the suffering of these vulnerable animals. New Zealand's recent landmark ban serves as evidence that an immediate cessation of this trade is both feasible and necessary.

Therefore, I implore Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the Labor government to demonstrate leadership and compassion by putting an end to the live export of sheep during this elected term. Let us strive for a future where no live animals are subjected to such cruelty and suffering. By taking decisive action now, Australia can set an example for the rest of the world and lead the way towards more ethical and sustainable practices.

It is crucial to address not only the suffering of sheep but also the plight of cattle in this industry. A recent investigation by PETA Asia in Indonesia exposed the improper stunning and painful, abhorrent treatment of Australian cattle. Despite the existence of the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System, which was implemented over a decade ago, systemic cruelty persists. The footage captured in this investigation demonstrates that the regulations are either not understood or disregarded by exporters and abattoirs. It is clear that non-compliance with these regulations carries no meaningful consequences.

Therefore, I kindly request that in your discussions and plans, the government includes provisions to address the welfare of cattle and ensures their protection from cruelty and exploitation in the live export industry. It is our responsibility to safeguard the well-being of all sentient beings and to ensure that our actions align with the principles of compassion, empathy, and respect for life.

I trust that you will give due consideration to my concerns and take immediate steps to address the urgent need for ending the live export of sheep and cattle. By doing so, we can reaffirm Australia's commitment to animal welfare and strengthen our position as a compassionate nation.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. I look forward to hearing about the actions taken to address these concerns.

Rochelle Palmer