

Sharon Gillies



26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Mr Glyde, the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Middleton and Ms Neil

As a concerned member of the community, I would like to thank you for recognising that the live sheep export trade by sea is no longer acceptable in today's modern society, and I look forward to the phase-out of this industry commencing as soon as possible.

There are many reasons why this outdated and inherently cruel industry should come to an end and as quickly as possible:

- Sheep endure long sea journeys, often only to face shocking abuse and fully conscious slaughter in countries with no effective animal welfare laws or protection.
- During transportation, they may be subjected to harsh conditions, including overcrowding, poor ventilation, and lack of access to food and water. These conditions can lead to heat stress, dehydration, and even death, which causes significant animal suffering.
- The trade of live sheep has been linked to the spread of diseases. In recent years, outbreaks of diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and bluetongue have been linked to the trade of live animals. These diseases not only threaten the health of animals, but they can also pose a significant risk to human health.

Animal cruelty is illegal in Australia and live animal exporters have a decades-long history of animal cruelty. Investigations by Animals Australia have repeatedly exposed systemic cruelty to Australian animals exported live. Animals Australia has shared footage of sheep literally cooking alive and drowning in their own faeces en route to the Middle East in August 2017!

New Zealand opted to end live-animal exports for slaughter in 2008 and they ended a live cattle trade worth four times as much as Australia's live sheep trade in two years.

I support farmers receiving government assistance to help them transition, and that the live animal export trade be replaced by a reliable chilled meat trade that looks after producers and their animals too.

Australians want certainty that this trade will end. I supported Labor in the last election because of this policy, and their commitment to phasing out live sheep exports by sea. I hope that the phase-out be legislated and commences in this term of the Australian Parliament, and that it begins and ends as soon as possible. As long as the trade continues, more sheep will be subjected to inexcusable suffering, as will Australia's reputation.

Kind regards  
Sharon Gillies