



30.05.2023

Subject: Submission on the Phase-Out of Live Sheep Export

To the Independent Panel

I am writing to provide my submission regarding the phase-out of live sheep export, as part of the public consultation process initiated by the Australian Government. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute my views and recommendations on this important matter.

Firstly, I want to express my strong support for the government's decision to phase out live sheep export by sea. I firmly believe that this trade is inherently cruel and goes against the values of compassion and fairness that Australia upholds. It is imperative that we take swift action to end this practice and prevent further unnecessary suffering of animals.

I therefore urge the expert panel to recommend legislating an end date to live export in this term of Parliament and to recommend a mandatory and expedited phase-out plan that ensures the process commences and concludes as soon as possible. Every delay prolongs the distress and hardship endured by sheep during sea transport and their subsequent inhumane slaughter in importing countries. The phase-out should be legislatively mandated, and a date should be set within this term of parliament, providing Australians with the certainty they seek.

It is crucial to consider the impact of the phase-out on all stakeholders, particularly the farmers, and I support the provision of government support and assistance to facilitate a smooth transition for farmers who are currently engaged in live sheep export. However, this phase-out also presents unique opportunities to develop and strengthen the domestic processing industry and increase sheep meat exports. By redirecting resources and investments towards expanding domestic processing capabilities, Australia can enhance its value-added meat production and create more job opportunities within the country. This approach would not only ensure a more humane treatment of animals but also stimulate economic growth and contribute to a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

Promoting the export of processed sheep meat rather than live animals aligns with evolving global market demands and consumer preferences. Many countries and consumers are increasingly seeking ethically sourced and sustainable products, including meat. By capitalizing on these emerging market trends, Australia can position itself as a leader in providing high-

quality, ethically produced sheep meat. This transition would not only benefit the welfare of animals but also enhance Australia's reputation as a responsible and forward-thinking agricultural nation.

I emphasize the significance of Australia's international reputation as a compassionate and ethical nation. Ending live sheep export aligns with global trends and sets a positive example for other countries to follow. By taking a stance against this trade, Australia can reaffirm its commitment to animal welfare and reinforce public trust in the agricultural sector. I commend Brazil's and New Zealand's precedent in ending live export and believe that Australia can similarly showcase its dedication to responsible and humane practices.

As a concerned citizen who supported the Labor party in the previous election partly due to their commitment to ending live sheep export, I urge the expert panel to take into account the widespread public support for this policy. Australians have consistently voiced their desire for an end to this trade, and it is essential that their voices are heard and respected in the decision-making process.

Although the merits of the government's policy to end the trade may not be under consideration, I believe it is crucial to address the issue of animal welfare. Live sheep export subjects these animals to unnecessary suffering, even when regulations are followed and to painful un-stunned slaughter in receiving countries. It is our moral obligation to prioritize the well-being of these sentient beings and take action to prevent their mistreatment.

In conclusion, I urge the expert panel to recommend a robust and time-bound plan for the phase-out of live sheep export. Let us demonstrate our commitment to animal welfare, uphold our international reputation, and provide support to farmers during this transition. I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will consider the views of concerned citizens like myself in formulating your recommendations.

Thank you for your dedication to this important task.

Yours sincerely

Stef Fetzner