

29 May 2023

The Consultation Panel  
*Phase out of live sheep exports by sea*

Dear Panel Members

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the **urgent** phasing out of live sheep exports by sea.

Along with the overwhelming majority of Australians, I was shocked by damning revelations of the agonies perpetrated on Australian animals in the live-export trade. I believe that regulation of the industry has repeatedly failed and will continue to fail because the practice is inherently unable to meet welfare standards, perpetrating slow and agonizing suffering and death in transport and in slaughter.

The Australian Labor Party's pledge to end live exports was a key criterion in determining my vote at the last federal election. Their election was a cause for celebration that the end to some of this misery would begin urgently.

The toll that this industry has taken on the Australian psyche must not be understated. I recognise that the current consultation does not address live-sheep exports by air or, tragically, the end to live-cattle exports where the endless litany of atrocities was first exposed. Yet no-one I talk with forgets Tommy, as I'm sure none of the panel does. Ending live-sheep export by sea is a first step and must be taken with all speed to keep faith with voters like me who took the Australian Labor Party at its word.

That faith has now been tested by the Prime Minister's statement that this trade will not end in the current parliamentary term. It is, therefore, essential that an end date be set in this term of Parliament, for the sake of animal welfare, to give certainty to Australian farmers transitioning from this trade, to repair Australia's tarnished international reputation, and to allow that overwhelming majority of Australians, of which I am one, to begin to heal from this festering wound on our national psyche.

It is also essential that this phasing out be conducted promptly to establish a path for the end of the entire live-export meat industry, as has been so ably demonstrated by New Zealand.

In summary, I support:

- the Australian Labor Party as the Federal Government keeping its pledge to phase out live export;
- an end date, legislated in this term of parliament, which falls not later than one year from the beginning of the next term of parliament;
- increased resources for, and oversight by and of, regulatory bodies across the entire live-export industry as it is phased out; and
- support of opportunities for those impacted by the phase out, constructed in ways to incentivise their rapid exit from this industry, including the domestic processing of meat for export.

The end to the live-export industry, specifically (as addressed by this consultation) and totally, is long overdue. Thank you for the opportunity to express my complete support for the urgent end to this blight.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Sally Collyer**

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of Dr Sally Collyer.