

To the Committee,

My name is Sally and I have long been concerned about the live sheep trade.

The main term of reference I will be addressing is the time frame for the phase out.

It is so important that the Albanese Government get this phase out started during this first term. This was an election promise. Waiting means that millions of sheep will be subject to the horrendous conditions that we now know occur during the voyages and at the destinations.

Public opinion is strongly against the trade. In January 2022 an RSPCA poll found that 67% of respondents wanted an end to live exports. This poll included many rural respondents.

Internationally Australia's reputation is suffering considerable damage. NZ now has a complete ban on live animal export by sea. The main reasons behind the ban are animal welfare concerns and the reputational damage to NZ. Brazil too has banned live exports on animal welfare grounds. The extent of the damage to Australia's reputation is reflected in a D ranking by World Animal Protection.

This trade involves millions of sentient animals. Sheep are particularly susceptible to heat stress. The current 3 month ban is not enough. There is illness, injuries and many deaths on board, there is inadequate vet care and certainly a lack of independent observers.

In 1985 a select committee found that, based on animal welfare grounds, the trade should end. That was nearly 40 years ago.

The time has come to evolve into a more humane society.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sally J Sutton

