

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Att: Panel for the phase out of live sheep export

Hi my name is [REDACTED] and I am from [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] organiser for the animals rights organisation We The Free and making live sheep exports illegal is so important to me as I believe all animal abuse should be made illegal. Animals are here with us not for us. Animals are sentient beings that express emotions and intelligence like us and deserve a life free of harm.

The terms of reference that I would like to address are the timeframe for the phase-out, future opportunities, and although it is not on the list animal welfare needs to be fore fronted.

The Albanese Government made an election promise to end live export so I therefore feel it is essential that this must be decided upon and legislated in this term. To delay the decision would submit millions more sentient animals to a gruelling and inhumane sea journey until at least 2025, with no guarantee that the government will get a second term. The government must also ensure that trade with Saudi Arabia does not resume – this would be an enormous breach of trust were it to happen.

Sheep suffer greatly on overseas voyages and are very susceptible to heat stroke and illnesses. The government recognised that the Australian public want to see an end to the practice and used this to their advantage. There is overwhelming support to end live export due to animal welfare reasons – there is no humane way to transport living beings on hot ships for weeks on end.

Regarding future opportunities, plant-based proteins have continued to thrive worldwide and in Australia. Health and environmental concerns, as well as ethical considerations, have led many Australians to explore alternative protein sources. Additionally, the availability of a wide range of plant-based meat options, including burgers, sausages, and even vegan seafood, has helped drive the popularity of these products. The current worth of these meat alternatives is \$80million per year, and with the value of live sheep export being only \$100million we can see the opportunity to transition these farmers to alternative incomes.

We can see that already other countries are leading the way and have shown that live export can be banned – with New Zealand and more recently Brazil saying no to the cruel practice.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak up for the animals in this decision process,

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]