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28 May 2023

To The Panel Examining The Export of Live Sheep

I am writing to lend my support to discontinuing the live export of sheep by sea as soon as possible and certainly before the Southern summer season. Ending this practise was one of the Government policies that confirmed my vote for Labour at the last election.

My wife and I am among many who were horrified at the treatment of sheep during one of these shipments when reporters sent pictures of their inhumane conditions on board and their suffering back to Australians. It was clear at the time that money is the prime consideration in this trade and animal welfare probably the last.

I have been watching clips on TV from an ABC reporter on board one of these ships recently, showing improved conditions and concern for the sheep's welfare, all very well while the cameras are rolling and with the hope of reversing the wind down of this method of transport. Would they have done anything without those first reports and how long before it would revert to maximise profits.

But let's be sure about one thing, while the shipping is inhumane, on arrival nothing improves. The sheep face a certain end but not in a certified abattoir, often hog tied and thrown in the boot of a car, others with their throats cut in the middle of baying crowds.

So what's wrong with slaughter in Australia and meat sent in refrigerated ships/planes to all overseas destinations including the Middle East, all religious slaughter conditions can be met here.

Please end live animal shipments as soon as possible

Yours

Tony Wilson