

**Submission
No 143**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE PHASE-OUT OF
AUSTRALIAN LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA ON NEW
SOUTH WALES**

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With defenceless animals spending weeks upon weeks in the searing heat in giant metal oven-like ships, subjected to the elements of all seasons, suffering sea sickness, disease, foreign and unhygienic conditions, I have become a very concerned and heartbroken Australian citizen.

I thank the Albanese government for listening to the majority of Australians who want to see an end to the Live Export trade including that of the export of live sheep by sea with their pledge that this despicable and heartless trade will cease in May 2028. This is far too long to wait and the ban on live export must include all animals including sheep, it is at least a start in the right direction.

The least that the National Party and The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers party can do is to adhere to this pledge and agreement with the Australian people.

Ship after ship of used and abused animals are sent on a voyage of hell every week that the live export trade continues.

The inability of the government and politicians to collaborate with each other, the inability to place life over profit, the inability to create a plan enshrined in legislation to be adhered to, no matter who is governing the country, and the intentional destruction of gains made to end the trade and make the right decision is deplorable.

With the NP and SF&FP attempting to dismantle Labour's action of heeding the call from the people whom they represent and showing some concern and empathy towards the tens of thousands of animals sent into purgatory, it clearly shows how heartless and uncaring the NP and SF&F parties are. I urge the Labour government to stand strong and to do whatever it takes to prove that Labour is THE party who can be trusted and THE party who actually represents the people and who is THE government with a heart big enough to advocate for the rights, protections and welfare of vulnerable, sentient animals.

Profits should never be placed ahead of life and no Australian government should ever advocate for animals to suffer on board filthy, hot, disease laden live export ships to then be met with a fully conscious slaughter at their destinations in countries with minimal or no animal protections in place. Animals are sentient beings and yet they are treated as objects without feelings who have their lives taken from them in the worst possible ways imaginable. Their throats are sawn through with a knife, after some have had their tendons slashed, eyes gouged out or sledgehammered in the head in places littered with body parts and streaming with blood of those who were killed before them.

Despite overwhelming evidence of repeated, systemic animal welfare violations, recurring scandals and disasters, Australia remains engaged in the live export trade at the expense of countless animals and our national reputation. We are portrayed as a nation of hypocrites, a nation without a heart and as a backward country who participates in the most heinous crimes imaginable against other species. Maintaining a ban on the export of live animals will demonstrate that Australia is becoming a kinder and compassionate nation.

Most live export ships leave Australia without an independent observer on board to monitor compliance with animal welfare standards. And for tens of thousands of animals there is just one vet on board to care for them. And this vet I am assuming is paid for by the industry itself which is a definite conflict of interest.

Because this industry cannot be regulated, it must be banned.

How many more live export disasters must we witness? Sheep who suffer from sea sickness, who have been burnt alive, who have drowned in capsized

ships, whom are cooked alive in extreme temperatures, crammed in and forced to stand and sleep in their own waste and to die from salmonellosis or respiratory diseases, forced to give birth to their babies into waste where they drown, are trampled or have their throats cut open by distressed ship staff? This is utterly unacceptable.

Australians are not a nation of heathens bereft of kindness and compassion and yet, it appears that Australians are being perceived as this.

I call on the current government and future governments to urgently transition the small percentage of farmers who are still sending sheep and cattle overseas as part of the horrific and ruthless live export industry to more acceptable means of making a living, such as regenerative crop farming.

I urge all those who have the power to make a positive difference to be on the right side of history. I urge them to be brave and to take on the leadership that is required to restore this country's trust and respect for governing powers by the majority of Australians.