

Submission
No 146

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

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The time has come for the export of live animals, in this case sheep, to be a thing of the past. In the better world that we want, this barbarism has no place.

After a friend had been telling me of all the exciting things she had in her bucket list, like a new house, car, private education of her children, she asked me what was in my bucket list. I said that I would like to see the banning of live animal export before I die.

I was so excited to hear that Australia would be moving away from live sheep export on 1/5/28. Now I am heart broken that there is now some doubt that this may be set in stone.

The welfare of animals should be the main priority in live animal export, but this is not so.

Animals endure much suffering on these long stressful journeys. They are in filthy, overcrowded enclosures. They may suffer from discomfort, inadequate care, stress, exhaustion, injury, illness and even death on these unnecessary long journeys. There have been reports that they cook to death in hot climates. They may also suffer from dehydration and malnutrition when they can't get to the food or water or they are shy feeders.

These death ships do not provide a system where the animals urine or faeces are removed so they must stand, sit or lie in it. When coated in excrement they may feel hotter and heavier making it more difficult to stand and get to the food and water. Please help these helpless innocent animals. They do not deserve to be treated so terribly. Animal welfare is my passion. This live animal export is unnecessary and barbaric. Please help them by honouring the banning of live animal welfare on 1/5/28. I'd rather it was much sooner but 1/5/28 is better than no actual commitment.

Even though there have been several recent disasters at sea such as the MV Gulf Livestock which sank and 5867 cows and the crew drowned. Also the MV Bahijah which was turned back because of the conflict in the Red Sea and resulted in sheep and cattle being forced to spend another month in these putrid conditions while a decision was being made as to where they could be taken.

Yet ships crammed with these terrified animals still leave Australian shores.

They suffer enough on these death ships but a worse fate awaits them on reaching their destination where they may be fully conscious while being slaughtered. This is against Australia's animal welfare regulations so why on earth do we ship our innocent creatures to countries where animal welfare hardly exists? What a contradiction to our humanity!

There is an increased demand of humane treatment of animals since the inception of live animal export particularly now that we can see the disgusting conditions on the ships and the cruel treatment of them on arrival at developing countries. The whole barbaric process is now transparent and depicts much cruelty of our sheep.

Now that the UK has left the European Union they were able to ban live export which is more fitting for them as they are proud to have some of the highest animal standards in the world. Banning Live animal export can improve nations ethical reputation. NZ has banned all live animal export as has Brazil where Brazilians admit this will "spare millions of animals from suffering".

Steps towards animal welfare by banning live animal export in Australia will set an example to the world.

Farmers have been given compensation and a time frame for the banning.

There is often a change in the demands of foods. Due to climate change and people's dietary requirements and diet fads. I remember when a farmer friend did some research and started growing canola plants as there was a growing demand for it. It was a very profitable exercise for them. So farmers may have to change what they use their property for, exploring other markets, to keep up with the times.

Countries that have banned live export may find that live export is not so important to the economy, quashing industry arguments in supporting the trade.

Please dont reverse the ban on live sheep exports.

It is so cruel and barbaric.

Please help these helpless innocent sheep and don't prolong their suffering by reversing the ban.

Mahatma Gandhi stated that "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated".