

## **Submission: Live sheep exports**

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[REDACTED]

The live sheep export trade is an appalling and cruel practice and should be stopped immediately. The evidence for this has been exposed in the press and internet news and cannot be denied. The practice of confining sensitive creatures in a ship, exposed to extremes of heat and thirst indicates that the people responsible should never be allowed the control of animals. We have further seen in the news that Middle Eastern slaughter practices are barbaric, even in comparison to our own. At least in Australia we have recourse to Law to enforce proper standards.

Your discussion paper describes the decline of demand for meat in the Middle East on-the-hoof in favour of frozen meat. If frozen/chilled meat was all we made available I am sure the Muslims would buy it, given that we have plenty of qualified Muslims in Australia to certify the product Halal.

The paper mentions the economic importance of this trade. Clearly there would be more value in slaughtering the animals here and exporting the meat. The jobs that would entail would be of greater economic benefit to the nation than risking the deaths of a percentage of the flock, and the poor condition the survivors are in at the end of a long voyage must effect the quality and weight of the meat. The resulting meat would be cheaper to transport and of higher quality, and would bring better prices than the living animals in the condition they are in on arrival at their destination.

The HotStuff v4 tool described relies on old climate data which is inappropriate in a time of rapid climate change. Current weather information and predictions could be factored in, however with global warming this information is increasingly unreliable and of limited value over the period of the voyage. Our government's intransigence in dealing with the climate emergency is exacerbating this problem

The concept of allowing for a 5% mortality rate is abhorrent to all humane people. I think that propping up the live sheep export industry for the sake of mainly Western Australian farmers is folly. On economic grounds alone there is much more to be gained by ceasing live export and reverting to refrigerated export of meat to the Middle East.

Therefore I argue that on economic and animal welfare grounds, the live export of Australian animals should be banned.