

4 November 2019



Submission to Middle East sheep exports policy options discussion paper

To whom it may concern,

I stand by the advice given by the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) that Australian food animals should be slaughtered as close to the site of production as practicable to minimise transport and handling stress, and to ensure they are protected by appropriate animal welfare and slaughter standards. It is my belief that the present discussion paper presents no options that meet the fundamental obligation to fully protect the welfare of Australian livestock animals. In line with the AVA's position, it is suggested that the imperative lies in the establishment of abattoirs in the north of Australia and the development of cold chain facilities for the transport of frozen and cold meat abroad, rather than in the continuation of the live export of Australian livestock.

I understand the infeasibility of ceasing live export overnight. I accept the need for a reasonable period of transition away from live export, during which the necessary alternative infrastructure mentioned above are put in place. During this transition period, I would expect the Australian Government to heed the advice contained in the Independent Technical Committee's Final Heat Stress Risk Assessment Review report (HSRA Report), in line with that given by the Australian Veterinary Association, and cease export to the Middle East entirely between May-October, inclusive. In addition, the revised HSRA model as recommended by the Technical Committee should be implemented for every voyage that crosses the equator, at all times of the year. Accordingly, my minimum expectation would be that options 2 and 3 presented in the discussion paper would be implemented.

The current failure to meet the most basic standards of animal welfare in the operation of the live export of Australian livestock is a source of considerable shame to me as an otherwise proud Australian Citizen.

Kind regards,

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