

The World League for Protection of Animals (WLPA) commends the government for following through on its election promise to phase-out this shameful live export trade, although on this occasion, only for sheep. WLPA leaders are aware that this election promise, influence many people in their voting. This along with the fact that the majority of Australians, usually around 80%, oppose this business means it is important for our democracy that the phase-out go ahead. Even governments of the political right in countries that we like to compare ourselves with, such as the UK are phasing out all live export. It is important for Australia's reputation as an exporting nation that we are not seen as a bastion of poor ethical business practices.

Live export of sheep can never be made humane. If it could the industry would have done so, because there have been protests and inquiries regarding it, going back at least as far as the 1980's; meaning they have had rather a lot of time and advice over the decades to utilise to make improvements.

A current RSPCA collation of reports from independent observers on these ships of shame verifies alleged suffering "80 per cent of independent observer reports from recent live sheep export voyages say sheep are starving on board, and at least 60 per cent reported animals suffering with signs of heat stress."

Basically any person of decent ethics, just seeing the photographs of those animals or smelling of ships, even at a distance, knows that there must be much suffering involved

The Government is on the right side of history, do not let the profits from this industry, for a small number of Australians derail a decent outcome for these poor animals. who have sadly suffered so much at our hands

Let most Australians be proud of their Government and country and stop this totally unnecessary suffering now.