

3rd November 2019

**Submission to Middle East sheep exports policy options discussion paper**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to provide the following submission to the Middle East sheep exports policy options discussion paper.

I add my voice to the call that live animal exports should end. It is not acceptable that animals bred in this country be subjected to the documented cruel and inhumane treatment metered out by Middle Eastern Traders, our responsibility to these animals does not stop at the wharf!

I understand New Zealand has moved away from live exports. For 30 years, successive Australian governments have touted value adding to our exports, but fail to do so and continue to export jobs.

The Department of Agriculture must make absolute the welfare of any exported animals. The animals deserve better than what is on offer. None of the options proposed in the discussion paper fulfil this obligation.

Risk assessment is a flawed process if not done by people who are intimate with the actual risks. Catastrophic loss ie dead sheep is inappropriate, you should be risk assessing the animals welfare and ensuring none are subjected to cruel or inhumane treatment anywhere in the supply chain. There are no half measures, if you cannot ensure this, cease the practice.

The Australian public does not accept inhumane treatment of animals can be bought.

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie has stated the live export trade “won’t be conducted at the expense of animal welfare standards.” With this in mind please, improve the standards and ensure compliance with the Senators statement.

I ask that you consider my submission and take action for the welfare of all animals for which the Department of Agriculture has an obligation to protect.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Maunsell,

