

Do the right thing. Of the four options in the discussion paper, only option three proposes adopting adequate heat stress guidelines.

It is the only option according to the paper that would “significantly lower the risk that any sheep exported to the Middle East would experience unsatisfactory welfare from heat stress in any given month.” It would also “prohibit or substantially reduce” live export between May and September, when temperatures around the Gulf countries are at their height, and reduce stocking densities in October by 40-60%.

Option three was the only viable proposal but the failure to include a summer trade ban as well as following the government’s own advice on heat stress is a disgrace and a significant backwards step for animal welfare.

The only viable option to protect the welfare of Australian live exported sheep while the trade continues is to prohibit the highest risk months of the year and introduce the revised heat stress risk assessment model, which the government has already committed to doing on multiple occasions.

Act responsibly, ethically and morally.

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