

27th November 2018

Submission to the Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)

Dear Committee Members,

This year, we have yet again seen the failure of the live export industry to protect Australian animals from abject cruelty on board ships. We've seen animals subjected to cramped, filthy environments, bogged down in their own faeces and without clear access to food and water.

The proposed ASEL Standards must do better for animal welfare - Australians will not stand for the cruelty of this industry to continue unchecked, and I'm writing to you to voice my concerns and my expectations for animal welfare within the new standards.

It's barbaric what we're doing to these animals. As a community it's disgusting that this treatment is tolerated and allowed. It upsets and enrages any decent human who has access to compassion and kindness.

Whenever any animal is subjected to live export from Australia by sea, it is my expectation their treatment and conditions will meet evidence-based animal welfare standards to protect them from harm.

Although the recommendations put forward in the ASEL Review Draft Report go some way towards this, my submission is that further changes are needed to bring these standards up to scratch, as I have outlined below. Detailed evidence to support these changes is provided in the submissions put forward by RSPCA Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association.

Sourcing and preparation of animals

- I support the recommendation to prohibit the export of pregnant *Bos taurus* cattle during the high risk May to October period. However, the risks are too great to allow cattle of any class to be exported from southern ports across the equator at this time.
- As the body mass of adult cattle increases, so does the risk of injury and susceptibility to heat stress during export. To mitigate this risk, evidence shows that the upper weight limit for all cattle should be set at 500kg, not at 650kg, with no exemptions.
- I agree with the committee's conclusion that sheep need time to rest and recover from shearing before they are loaded onto the vessel. But one clear day is not enough - sheep need at least two clear days to overcome the cumulative stress of road transport, handling and shearing and to ensure all shearing wounds are healed before loading.
- No sheep, whatever the breed, should be allowed on board a ship with more than 25mm of wool or hair. We have seen the devastating effects of sheep coated in