Dear Minister,

Live export is a cruel practice and needs to stop altogether and immediately. It is 2018. No-one needs to make money this way and no-one needs to acquire their food this way.

I do not support recommendations to change the ASEL standards because I believe that there is no humane way to transport sheep or cattle by ship. Changing the standards just delays ending the practice by adding even more hideous timelines to get through before change can happen. It also gives the people involved, along with the politicians who support them, the argument that they have improved standards and listened to the RSPCA thus making it even harder to end it. Furthermore, the industry has already been given time to improve its standards and it just hasn’t.

Avoiding the high-risk period (May to October) is not a good enough answer. Just because it isn’t summer in the Northern Hemisphere from November to April doesn’t mean the animals won’t be subjected to extreme heat. The non-high risk period includes our own summer which we all know can be severe. If you transport animals from Australia to the other side of the world then it is going to be hot somewhere along the journey.

More restrict sourcing of animals is also not the answer. It may decrease the amount of deaths on the journey but will have no impact whatsoever on the suffering of the survivors, there will simply be more of them.

No-one needs to miss out if live export is stopped. If Australian meat is shipped over already packaged and frozen then people in foreign countries will still get our product, farmers will still sell their stock, shipping companies will still get work (although they would have to modify their ships with freezers) and there will be more jobs available in Australia in the meat processing industry.

I’m calling for an immediate and complete stop to live export from Australia and I urge you to consider this in your review.

Please reply as soon as possible to advise how you will be addressing my concerns in your review of the ASEL standards.

Yours sincerely, Terri Tamlin