



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Via e-mail

10 January 2023

Dear Prime Minister:

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to urge your government to end live export of all animals – sooner rather than later. I'm fortunate enough to be visiting Australia once again, but I'm shocked and saddened that this cruel and polluting industry continues to mar your beautiful nation's international record and reputation.

While I appreciate your intention to phase out the live export of sheep sometime in the future, this plan doesn't help the tens of thousands of gentle cows and goats or the half million sheep trapped in the trade until your – never guaranteed – second term, when your commitment is slated to take effect.

The disgusting conditions aboard live-export ships are well documented. Animals endure gruelling journeys thigh-deep in their own excrement, suffering from heat exhaustion, rough waters, starvation, thirst, illness, and injuries. Of the more than 200 million animals crammed onto filthy cargo ships over the last 30 years, more than 2.5 million have died at sea, each of them an individual who felt fear and pain.

For the animals who do make it to their destination, a terrible fate awaits. [A 2021 PETA Asia investigation in Indonesia](#) shows that, despite an Australian government assurance scheme, cruelty is systemic in the industry. Australian cattle there were improperly stunned or butchered without even the small mercy of stunning.

Of course, aside from the cruelty, live export is terrible for the planet. Not only are hundreds of tonnes of sewage pumped directly into the ocean each day during a live-export journey, a 2013 report revealed that the live-export trade is also one of the top 40 carbon emitters in Australia. A swift end to this practice would help Labor realise its pledge for a “new era” of climate action in Australia.

I'm a strong advocate for human as well as animal rights, and the live-export industry fails everyone. Onboard veterinarian Dr Lynn Simpson said that, in the absence of doctors, she often treated ailments like gangrene and dehydration among crew members. Crews aboard these death ships also suffer from lung, eye, and skin ailments caused by being surrounded by animal waste.

A quick and total shutdown of this industry is long overdue, and I urge you to be the leader that millions of animals, hundreds of humans, and our planet desperately need. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Cumming

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