



Dear Prime Minister

Eid al-Adha, the Islamic Festival of Sacrifice, starts next weekend and again, you have allowed Australian sheep to be a part of it. The sheer scale of the slaughter makes this one of the worst periods of animal suffering in the Middle East. Sheep are subjected to rough handling and transport then are sacrificed in homes, on footpaths and in overcrowded abattoirs. Animals are fully conscious when they have their throats cut.

Ending live sheep exports is feasible – please act now!

Independent analysis by respected economists, ACIL Tasman, has revealed the truth about the real value of live sheep exports. We now know:

- Live sheep exports are taking job opportunities away from Australians
- Live sheep exports are stifling Australia's meat-processing sector
- The value of live sheep exports to farmers and the economy is very small
- The transition for farmers from live sheep to sheepmeat is relatively simple
- Farmers are already moving away from live sheep exports and into more profitable areas
- Phasing out live sheep exports won't affect the price of lamb or mutton
- Now is the time to signal a phase out of live sheep exports because the industry is already undergoing major structural reform

Prime Minister, in light of this new information, you have a tremendous opportunity to show leadership and demonstrate to the Australian public that your Government takes animal welfare seriously.

The RSPCA asks the Australian Government to take urgent action:

1. Increase marketing activities to further promote Australian sheepmeat to the world
2. Ensure Australia's meat-processing industry has the support it needs to grow
3. Recognise the growing public opposition to live sheep exports
4. Investigate mechanisms to help farmers move away from live sheep exports
5. Signal to farmers that a phase out of live sheep exports is going to occur

We urge you to invest in Australia's meat-processing industry, create jobs in Australia and stop sacrificing Australian animals to this cruel trade.

Yours sincerely

Supporters of the RSPCA's campaign against the live export of sheep for slaughter

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