

# YOU CAN MEET WITH YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND HELP END LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

**Ending live exports will protect animals, create jobs and bring more money back to the Australian economy.**

Around 40,000 Australian sheep die annually due to the live sheep export trade to the Middle East, roughly half from starvation. Recent WSPA investigations have shown many survivors are still handled and slaughtered horrifically on arrival. For cattle shipped to Indonesia the slaughter is also appalling, with 80% of cattle slaughtered whilst fully conscious, without pre-stunning.

Australia has no control over animals once we send them off shore – the only control we have is whether or not we send them.

The most powerful thing you can do to stop live animal export is arrange a meeting with your local Member of Parliament (MP), and demonstrate that Australians are opposed to this cruel and unnecessary trade.

**Contact: Sharon Troy from WSPA for an MP meeting pack: [sharontroy@wspa.org.au](mailto:sharontroy@wspa.org.au)**

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

*"I've never done this type of thing before and I'm no expert, but I figured I should put my money where my mouth is and make a difference and tell my MP that I'm concerned about this trade. My MP is now empowered to act on my behalf and has the information required to do so. The more people that get out and speak to their local representative the more of a chance we will have at ending this cruelty." - Chris from Fremantle*

In a face to face meeting with your MP you will have an opportunity to ask questions, discuss your personal concerns and move your representative to take action against animal cruelty.

Meetings usually last around 20 minutes, giving you the opportunity to voice your concern and request that your representative raise the issue in Parliament or at least within their party. You may also have the opportunity to show some footage and leave behind further information which we can freely provide.

## HOW CAN I MEET WITH MY MP?

If you do not know who your Federal MP is, contact WSPA with your postcode and we will help you find out. Next, contact your MP's office and request to set up a meeting with your MP. Your MP's office staff will often ask for your request in writing. Your letter doesn't need to be long, simply outline who you are and why you want to meet them.

Here's an example:

To whom it may concern,

I would like to meet with my local Member of Parliament the Hon [name of MP], to discuss my concern for the live export trade of sheep to the Middle East. [You may wish to add a line about your involvement within your local community.] I would like to know more about what the government is doing to increase our chilled meat trade, thereby decreasing the live export trade and also request that this issue be raised in parliament. Please call/email at [your contact details] to organise a time.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]



# BE PATIENT BUT PERSISTENT

You may not get an appointment quickly as most MPs will have their diaries booked up well in advance, but be persistent. If you have not received a response within 10 days, telephone the office again and ask to speak with the MP's diary manager. Remember to remain friendly and polite and you will have a great chance of securing a meeting time and giving a voice to millions of Australian animals affected by live exports.

Don't turn down the chance for a meeting if you are offered a meeting with your MP's advisor or assistant. These staff can communicate your concerns to your local MP just as effectively.

## GETTING READY

Once you decide to set up a meeting with your MP, let us know and we will send you an MP meeting pack. This pack includes video footage, a summary of the issues associated with live exports and more. It will equip you with what you need to know and then you can leave it with your MP to refer to. Make sure you read through all of this information before your meeting.

It's also a good idea to write down a few points you want to discuss during the meeting and take these with you.

Make the most out of your meeting by securing a commitment. Ask for definite outcomes. This could be an agreement to raise the issue in Parliament, or request a written response to a specific question. For example:

- What more can the government do to increase trade in chilled meats, decreasing the need for live animals?
- Why does Australia export live animals to countries where the standards of animal welfare would neither be legal nor tolerated in Australia?

## AFTER YOUR MEETING

Firstly, pat yourself on the back for highlighting this important animal welfare issue.

Next, contact Sharon Troy from WSPA and let her know who you met with, how the meeting went and what was discussed. By feeding back this information we are able to gain a better picture of the current political attitudes towards this campaign.

Lastly, send a follow up letter or email to your MP. Thank them for meeting with you, outline your understanding of any actions they committed to take and indicate that you look forward to an update on their progress. If you weren't able to raise everything you wanted to or have thought of other things since your meeting, include these points in the follow-up letter.

We hope that these tips have helped to encourage and assist you in setting up a meeting with your MP. Thanks for your support, together we will bring an end to this cruel and unnecessary trade.

For any further queries contact:  
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