



# The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

Sunday, 19 June 2005

The High Commissioner for Australia  
Australia House  
The Strand  
London WC2B 4LA

Your Excellency,

I write to you on behalf of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals as its Chairman. We are pleased and proud to be able to say that we have members in Australia as well as in the United Kingdom and America.

Fifty years ago it was standard practice in Australia to move sheep in two-tiered trailers in numbers of up to 1000 at the time. Journeys could take as much as four days and three nights, covering hundreds of miles. Regardless of weather conditions, with temperatures commonly reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the animals were never normally let off the trucks for rest and watering, and many died.

Such horrors, thank God, are no longer possible. Your country has legislated to prevent it. Can you not take similar steps to prevent the even greater horrors of the export trade in live sheep by sea to the Middle East?

We know there are cultural factors involved which have commercial consequences, but might not negotiations at Government level find some way round these? In any case, are there not some times when

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ethics must prevail over profits? Australians must have thought so in the matter of internal transport.

People who care about Australia and, rivalry over the Ashes notwithstanding, that includes most Pommies -- for one thing, so many of us have relatives who are Australians -- would rejoice to see an end to a practice that brings Australia into disrepute, and gives such an unfair impression of its people.

Yours sincerely,