

Perth Now

Fremantle council votes to end live sheep exports

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DYING TRADE: Fremantle City council has joined the ranks of organisations opposing Australia's live sheep exports. Picture: **Daniel Wilkins**

Source: PerthNow

FREMANTLE has adopted a policy aimed at putting an end to live sheep exports from the port.

A historic decision was made last night by the City of Fremantle to support a phase out of live exports.

More than 80 per cent of the nearly 4 million Australian sheep exported in 2006 were loaded through the port of Fremantle.

Fremantle Council has now joined Greens Member for South East Metropolitan, Lynn MacLaren, and Federal Labour Member for Fremantle, Melissa Parke, in opposing live exports on the grounds of cruelty.

Fremantle Mayor Brad Pettitt said the time had come for the "cruel and unnecessary live sheep trade to be phased out and replaced with a trade that supports local jobs".

"This motion is not designed to move the trade south from Fremantle to Kwinana. We want it stopped all together and replaced with the less cruel and better economic outcome of frozen meat," Mr Pettitt said.

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Stop Live Exports campaign manager Jodie Jankevics said: "We welcome Fremantle Council taking this strong stance against live exports. There are many animal welfare concerns with this trade, and despite industry claims, very little improvements to animal welfare have been made.

"Not only are live exports cruel, but they don't make economic sense either.

"Recent reports released show that a sheep processed domestically is worth 20 per cent more to the Australian economy than one exported live, due to the capacity to value add in Australia.

"Added to that, many West Australians are losing their jobs in the processing sector. Live export are sending animals overseas that would normally be processed here."

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