

Federal Election Scorecards – Summary of Responses

Last updated 24 May 2022

Overview

Ahead of the Federal Election 2022, the Alliance for Animals launched online (3rd May) a set of 21 scorecards outlining where parties and candidates stand on four key reforms for animals. This included one national scorecard and 20 select electorate scorecards. We contacted all major parties and listed candidates in key electorates asking for their responses to four key policies. In completing the scorecards, we took into consideration responses to our emails as well as previous public comments, voting patterns and policy decisions. Not all candidates are listed – we set a maximum of seven candidates per scorecard and prioritised those where information on their position was available. The scorecards were prepared to raise awareness of the interests of animals and prevent animal suffering by summarising the position of political parties on the key animal welfare policy issues relevant to the charitable purposes of the Alliance. If you have any questions about this document, please email: info@allianceforanimals.org.au

All scorecards are accessible on the Alliance website: <https://www.allianceforanimals.org.au/federal-election-2022>

Policies

We asked each party/candidate for their response to the following policies:

1. Phase-out of live sheep exports

Introduce legislation to phase out live sheep exports within three years.

2. National commission/office of animal welfare

Establish a national Animal Welfare Commission/Office as recommended by the Productivity Commission to coordinate the states and territories in developing and implementing national animal welfare standards and to provide independent science-based advice to Government on animal welfare.

3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare

Elevate the importance of animal welfare within Government by recognising animal welfare within the title of a ministerial portfolio separate to the agriculture portfolio. (Note: partial tick available for including animal welfare in the title of an assistant ministerial portfolio).

4. National animal welfare fund

Establish a national animal welfare fund to invest in public and private initiatives that improve animal welfare standards.

Disclaimer

The scorecards represent the view of the Australian Alliance for Animals and should not be relied upon. The Alliance does not promote or oppose political parties or direct people on how to vote.

POLITICAL PARTIES

REGISTERED PARTY NAME/ABBREVIATION	RESPONSE			
	PHASE-OUT LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS	NATIONAL COMMISSION/ OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE	MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL WELFARE	NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE FUND
Animal Justice Party - AJP				
	<p>The AJP supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <p>The AJP opposes the commercial export, whether by sea or air, of live animals; this includes, but is not limited to, cows, sheep, buffaloes, camels, alpacas, goats, horses, and greyhounds. Our objectives are to impose an immediate ban on commercial live animal export and transition live export workers into industries that are humane, ethical and both environmentally and economically sustainable.</p> <p>See Live Animal Export policy: https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/live_animal_export</p> <p>The Animal Justice Party will advocate for the introduction of a federal Independent Office of Animal Protection (IOAP), the first step in the transition to a new, kinder Australia. This extends the mandate of a national Animal Welfare Commission/Office. The IOAP will be responsible not only for the protection of animals used in agriculture, but for all animals including wild living animals (wildlife and others), all working animals (e.g. in sport and entertainment, therapy and other human support services, in conservation work, war and experimentation), and animals used as companion animals.</p> <p>Using the Federal Government’s constitutional power to regulate corporations, the IOAP will be created to independently investigate and report on the commercial exploitation of animals in Australia. The IOAP will actively investigate and support opportunities for commercial operations to switch to a cruelty-free business model.</p> <p>With the power of an IOAP, the Animal Justice Party will enable the current conflicts of animal and human interests to be removed, and for animals to have better protection under law. The IOAP will engage experts to help advise the government on animal protection issues, and will be armed with the necessary resources and power to investigate commercial animal exploitation. The IOAP will promote animal rights on farms and in other related industries, and prosecute offenders.</p> <p>To inform the development of animal protection policies, laws and standards, the IOAP will commission internationally recognised natural and social scientists and those from the humanities, including, for example, those working in ethology, ecology, animal welfare sciences, critical social sciences, law and ethics, and others as required. The Animal Justice Party, alongside the IOAP, will unify Australia’s animal protection laws, which will see animal protection being prioritised equally around the country.</p> <p>See Federal Election Platform p 16</p> <p>The Animal Justice Party was created to give a political voice to animals. To do so, it will be essential to establish a separate ministerial portfolio dedicated solely to animal protection. There should be no connection, as is currently the</p>			

	<p>case, with animal agriculture or other animal exploitative industries which exert undue influence on decision-making and create an untenable conflict of interest within the portfolio.</p> <p>The Animal Justice Party supports the abolition of all animal exploitation. We would support the creation of a “national animal welfare fund” that would support the transition of all industries away from exploiting animals, including the transition to plant-based agriculture. These funds would also support animals exiting these industries.</p>			
<p>Australian Federation Party – Federation Party</p>				
<p>Australian Greens – The Greens</p>				
<p>Australian Labor Party - ALP</p>				
<p>The Federation Party supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Verbal response received</u>, via a call with Mark Aldridge.</p> <p>Mr Aldridge referred us to the policies on the Federation Party’s website: https://ausfedparty.com.au/policy/animal-welfare-policy/</p> <p>The website outlines their policy supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A phase out of live export in favour of value adding. • The establishment of an independent national regulatory body to ensure national oversight and coordination of animal welfare and protection with appropriate powers to prosecute. • A dedicated ministerial position and ministry to oversee the application of animal welfare legislation • The establishment of a National Animal Welfare Support Fund. 				
<p>The Greens support all policies.</p> <p>The Greens full animal welfare policies are here: https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-04/Greens-2022-Policy-Platform--Enviro--Animals.pdf</p> <p><u>Response via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed 2. Agreed 3. Agreed 4. Agreed 				
<p>The ALP supports the creation of a form of independent office/commission of animal welfare and partially supports all other policies.</p> <p><i>ALP’s official website:</i> https://www.alp.org.au/policies/strengthening-animal-welfare</p> <p>Labor supports strong animal welfare standards. We believe all animals should be treated humanely and that it is the responsibility of all governments, state and federal, to ensure that this is done.</p>				

	<p>To ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are maintained, governments and industry must remain vigilant and be guided by the best available science. An Albanese Labor Government will provide \$1 million a year to establish the office of the independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare and increase accountability and transparency for reporting of animal welfare breaches. We will work with the State and Territory Governments and allocate \$5 million over four years to renew the Animal Welfare Strategy.</p> <p>The Inspector-General of Animal Welfare will strengthen reports to the Parliament on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and emerging live export markets. • The number of head exported and mortalities. • Any allegations of breaches of animal welfare standards and investigations undertaken. • Any sanctions or other action taken for breaches of Australia’s animal welfare standards. <p>Currently, only mortalities and actions taken in relation to those mortalities are reported on. We propose to increase transparency and reporting through these measures.</p> <p>Labor remains committed to the Northern summer live sheep export trade ban based on the scientific evidence included in the draft report by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.</p> <p>The Morrison Government’s draft report has recommended that the Northern Hemisphere Summer ban on live sheep exports ban continue. Labor supports the continuation of the ban based on the evidence contained in the draft report. Despite this, the Morrison Government has flagged its intention to roll back the ban.</p> <p>Labor acknowledges the live sheep export trade is in decline and will phase out live sheep exports in consultation with the industry and the West Australian Government, including consideration of the impacts for the entire value chain of the industry. Labor supports value adding more here in Australia and believes this will create more job opportunities. We do not believe setting a deadline on the industry is appropriate. Labor will not ban cattle exports. The scientific advice does not support a ban on cattle exports as long as strong animal welfare standards are in place.</p> <p>An Albanese Government is committed to improving animal welfare through the measures outlined above. Increased reporting and transparency and an independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare are critical to delivering that.</p>			
Centre Alliance				
	<p>Centre Alliance supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response via email:</u> Rebekha [Sharkie] would be happy to advocate on all of these issues.</p>			
Derryn Hinch’s Justice Party				

	<p>Derryn Hinch's Justice Party supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email</u> from Derryn Hinch:</p> <p>I agree with all the issues you raised. I led the campaign to ban live exports when I was last in the Senate. It is unfinished business. We have opposed duck shooting. I have campaigned against greyhound racing and puppy farms. You will not find a stronger supporter in Canberra.</p>			
<p>FUSION: Science, Pirate, Secular, Climate Emergency - FUSION</p>				
	<p>FUSION supports two policies (live sheep export phase-out and independent office/commission of animal welfare). Their positions on two policies are unknown.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u> Score based on publicly available information.</p> <p><i>FUSION's official website:</i></p> <p>https://www.fusionparty.org.au/policy_faq</p> <p>Native animals: not only should we recommit to their survival but also strengthen the survival of their habitat and not allow areas to be decimated and justified through having environmental offsets.</p> <p>Animal agriculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivise meat alternatives and alternative protein sources such as lab grown meat. • End feed lots and factory farming. • End live export of animals for food. • Establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare. 			
<p>Jacqui Lambie Network – JLN</p>				
	<p>The position of JLN on the policies is unknown.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u></p>			
<p>Liberal Democratic Party – Liberal Democrats</p>				
	<p>The position of the Liberal Democrats on the policies is unknown.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u></p>			
<p>Liberal Party of Australia – Liberal</p>				
	<p>The Liberal Party does not support the policies.</p> <p><u>Response via letter from the Coalition Campaign Headquarters:</u></p> <p><i>Morrison Joyce Government Response</i></p>			

	<p>1. The Coalition Government is committed to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare where it has the authority, and to supporting and influencing good animal welfare outcomes where others have responsibility. Animal cruelty in any circumstances is unacceptable, which is why the Coalition Government has strict standards and regulations governing the export of livestock and will continue to ensure exporters deliver good animal welfare outcomes across approached export supply chains. The Coalition Government introduced the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, which sets the minimum animal health and welfare requirements the livestock export industry must meet throughout the supply chain, from sourcing to completion of disembarkation overseas. An independent Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports is also in place to provide additional assurance.</p> <p>Australia is the only country in the world with such a regulatory system in operation. Publicly available data shows that more than 99% of livestock exported from Australia arrive at their destination with good animal welfare outcomes.</p> <p>2. The state and territory governments have primary responsibility for animal welfare in Australia, and along with industry need to be the driving force on animal welfare standards and reform, with the federal government’s responsibility limited to international trade.</p> <p>The Coalition Government understands and shares the community concerns about the welfare of animals. The substantive functions of the proposed portfolio and office for animal welfare are already achieved through existing federal, state and territory government mechanisms. The establishment of an independent office would result in a significant cost to everyday Australians, farmers and taxpayers and would add a layer of bureaucracy for no real benefit. The proposed body has no support from the agricultural sector – and would burden the livestock supply chain, including consumers, with ineffective and costly red tape.</p> <p>3. The substantive functions of the proposed portfolio and office for animal welfare are already achieved through existing federal, state and territory government mechanisms. The establishment of an independent office would result in a significant cost to everyday Australians, farmers and taxpayers and would add a layer of bureaucracy for no real benefit.</p> <p>4. The state and territory governments have primary responsibility for animal welfare in Australia, and along with industry need to be the driving force on animal welfare standards and reform. This is a core function of their responsibility and is resourced appropriately.</p>			
National Party of Australia – The Nationals				
	<p>The National Party does not support the policies.</p> <p><u>Response via letter from the Coalition Campaign Headquarters:</u></p> <p>Morrison Joyce Government Response</p> <p>1. The Coalition Government is committed to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare where it has the authority, and to supporting and influencing good animal welfare outcomes where others have responsibility.</p> <p>Animal cruelty in any circumstances is unacceptable, which is why the Coalition Government has strict standards and regulations governing the</p>			

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Pauline Hanson’s One Nation – One Nation				
	<p>One Nation do not support the policies.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u> Scores based on available information and previous performance.</p>			
Sustainable Australia Party - Stop Overdevelopment/ Corruption				
	<p>The Sustainable Australia Party supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phase out of live sheep exports: Support. Ending live animal exports is a longstanding policy of Sustainable Australia Party. 2. National Commission/Office of Animal Welfare Support. As outlined in our Animals & Biodiversity policy, Sustainable Australia Party calls for 			

	<p>“Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, research, sporting and domestic environments.” A national Animal Welfare Commission/Office is the ideal body to regulate this.</p> <p>3. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare. Support. To demonstrate the importance of animal welfare, Sustainable Australia Party supports recognising animal welfare within the title of a ministerial portfolio.</p> <p>4. National Animal Welfare Fund. Support. Strong action on animal welfare will require proper funding, so Sustainable Australia Party supports a national animal welfare fund to invest in public and private initiatives that improve animal welfare standards.</p>			
TNL				
	<p>TNL support all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. Yes 3. Yes 4. We would not need to establish the fund because as a sovereign government we can afford to invest in whatever is necessary for our animal welfare, which investment would also be stimulating for the economy. <p>It was confirmed that TNL is happy to be recorded with a green tick for the animal welfare fund policy. Although TNL are of the view that a separate fund is not necessary, they support the principle of government investment in animal welfare.</p>			
United Australia Party - UAP				
	<p>The position of UAP on the policies is unknown.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u></p>			
Western Australia Party				
	<p>The Western Australia Party partially support the live export policy, and fully support all other policies. They support a negotiated phase-out of live sheep exports but without a specific timeframe.</p> <p><u>Verbal response received</u> via a call from Peter Kane.</p>			

For a full list of registered party names and abbreviations, see: https://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/party_registration/Registered_parties/

CANDIDATES

ELECTORATE	NAME	RESPONSE			
		PHASE-OUT LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS	NATIONAL COMMISSION/ OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE	MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL WELFARE	NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE FUND
Boothby	Jo Dyer, Independent				
		<p>Jo Dyer's position on the policies is unknown.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u></p>			
Chisholm	Melanie Kempson, United Australia Party				
		<p>Melanie Kempson supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I would be in support of this policy. I think this procedure is extremely barbaric. Live sheep export creates cruel living conditions for the livestock. Additionally, these poor conditions are endured for weeks until they reach a destination, with the livestock arriving in a poor health condition, or have perished on their journey. 2. I support this. 3. I support. 4. I think this a great idea, and would be in support of a national animal welfare fund. 			
Clarke	Andrew Wilkie, Independent				
		<p>Andrew Wilkie supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <p>Support to all four policies.</p>			
Curtin	Kate Chaney, Independent				
		<p>Kate Chaney has not yet developed a position on the policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email.</u></p> <p>Kate recognises the importance of these issues. She hasn't developed a policy on the issues you mention and the advice she has been given is that it's important to have really clear simple messages on policy prior to the election. As you will appreciate it is difficult to form fully fleshed out positions on all matters, but if elected she will be developing her policies and will consider these issues in further detail.</p>			

Flinders	Sarah Russell, Independent				
		<p>Sarah Russell supports all policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support. (I support phasing out all live exports) 2. Support. National animal welfare standards must be re-implemented. 3. Support. I agree that it is best to add "animal welfare" to a current portfolio - e.g. environment. 4. Support as I am sure most people in Flinders (and elsewhere) do. <p>Most Australians want animals to be treated with respect and kindness.</p>			
Goldstein	Zoe Daniel, Independent				
		<p>Zoe Daniel supports an end to all live exports.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <p>Thank you very much for your inquiry. We recognise your advocacy for these important issues; however, ours is a very small campaign team. We, unfortunately, lack the resources to answer the many pledge requests we receive. We encourage you to look at the policies section on our website for information about our key positions.</p> <p><i>Zoe Daniel's official website:</i></p> <p>https://www.zoedaniel.com.au/policies/policy-faqs/</p> <p>Evidence shows that heat stress coupled with lengthy and crowded journeys has a cruel impact on the animals being exported. For this reason I believe that the live animal export trade should be wound up.</p>			
Kooyong	Monique Ryan, Independent				
		<p>Monique Ryan partially supports the live export policy and fully supports the creation of an independent office/commission of animal welfare. Positions on other policies not yet formulated.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <p>Dr Monique Ryan's position is that she is committed to the humane and ethical treatment of animals. She agrees that Australia's current animal welfare regulations do not always meet community standards. Monique would also work towards sustainable and ethical farming practices in line with recommendations made by the RSPCA.</p> <p>In response to your four questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phase out of live sheep exports: She supports strong and effective regulation of live animal export supply chains, and 			

		<p>would work towards promoting export of domestically-processed meat as a safe and humane alternative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Animal Welfare: Monique supports the recommendations of the Productivity Commission Report 79, November 2016, to establish a statutory agency to develop national farm animal welfare standards, based on the best science and Australian community standards. Portfolio recognition of animal welfare: Monique is not aware of any experts calling for portfolio recognition of Animal Welfare. However, if there was an independent expert report calling for this, Monique would of course give this serious and due consideration. National Animal Welfare Fund: Monique is not aware of any experts calling for the establishment of an Animal Welfare Fund. However, if there was an independent expert report calling for this with an explanation of the costs and benefits of such a Fund, Monique would of course give this serious and due consideration. 			
Indi	Helen Haines, Independent				
		<p>Helen Haines partially supports the live export policy. Her position on all other policies is unknown.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <p>Supports negotiated arrangements with the farming community and export operators to phase out the live sheep trade and encourage the government to ensure a robust, verifiable independent monitoring program to ensure the highest animal welfare standards are observed, with voyage performance reports published regularly by the Department.</p> <p>The other policy positions require original research from us as we don't have pre-determined positions.</p>			
North Sydney	Kylea Tink, Independent				
		<p>Kylea Tink partially supports the live export policy and fully supports all other policies.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I would support legislation to phase out live exports based on recommendations from the proposed independent Animal Welfare Commission. I support establishment of a national Animal Welfare Commission, as recommended by the Productivity Commission. Animal welfare policies should be based on science and expert analysis, taking into account community expectations. As recommended by the Productivity Commission, the federal government should take the lead in setting and monitoring national standards for animal welfare. I would support allocation of ministerial responsibility to provide clear accountability. 			

		4. I would support establishment of a national animal welfare fund to improve animal welfare standards.			
Mackellar	Sophie Scamps, Independent				
		<p>Sophie Scamps supports the live export and national office of animal welfare policies. Her position on other policies is unknown.</p> <p><u>No direct response received.</u> Score based on an email sent to a constituent and publicly available information.</p> <p><i>Email sent to a constituent:</i></p> <p>Dr Sophie Scamps appreciates your enquiry regarding her position on live animal exports. Sophie understands that this issue is important to many Australians and notes that live animal exports lack widespread support in the community. It is a deep concern for many. Sophie is opposed to live animal exports and notes that the industry is systemically cruel.</p> <p>If elected, Sophie would advocate for the government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a plan to completely shut down the live animal export industry; and • remove responsibility for animal welfare from Ministers and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and instead establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare with the power to investigate allegations of animal cruelty and to punish people and organisations that mistreat animals. <p><i>Sophie Scamps' official website:</i></p> <p>https://www.sophiescamps.com.au/faq</p> <p>I am opposed to live animal exports and note that the practice is systemically cruel and lacks widespread support in the community. If elected, I would advocate for the government to develop a plan to cease live animal exports.</p>			
Warringah	Zali Steggall, Independent				
		<p>Zali Steggall supports the live export policy. Her positions on all other policies are unknown.</p> <p><u>No response received.</u> Score based on publicly available information.</p> <p><i>Zali Steggall's official website:</i></p> <p>https://www.zalisteggall.com.au/where_does_zali_stand_on</p> <p>Live Animal Exports</p> <p>I believe it is our moral and ethical responsibility to bring an end to live animal exports.</p> <p>The science on heat stress and associated issues in the live animal trade is clear, showing the devastating impact on these animals.</p> <p>Zali previously stood alongside Independent Andrew Wilkie MP and the leader of the Greens Adam Bandt MP, as they attempted to halt the Al Kuwait ship and called on the Government to develop a plan</p>			

		<p>to shut down the practice for good. Please read Zali's full statement here.</p> <p>On 7 December 2020 Zali also seconded a motion by Independent MP Andrew Wilkie, to introduce the Live Animal Export Prohibition (Ending Cruelty) Bill 2020. Please see the transcript here. This Bill seeks to permanently ban the export of live animals for slaughter from 1 July 2023, and puts in place steps to ensure that, in the interim, live animals are treated humanely after they are exported.</p>			
Wentworth	Allegra Spender, Independent				
		<p>Allegra Spender fully supports three policies, with partial support for ministerial recognition of animal welfare.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree 2. Agree 3. Include animal welfare in the title of an assistant ministerial portfolio 4. Agree. 			
	Dave Sharma, Liberal				
		<p>Dave Sharma has expressed partial support for a phase out of live sheep exports but has not committed to a timeframe. No response received on the other policies therefore Liberal Party response recorded for these.</p> <p><u>Response received via email:</u></p> <p>I would like to see the trade phased out over time, with those currently engaged in live animal exports shifting towards exporting chilled and frozen product instead, and I will continue to present that view within the Parliament.</p>			

