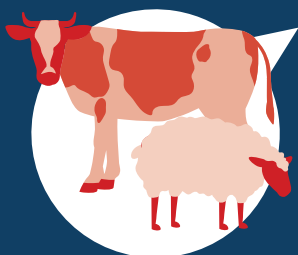


# ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE EU-AUSTRALIA FTA

Negotiations for an EU-Australia Trade Agreement began in 2018. The EU mandate calls for “continued cooperation and exchanges on animal welfare, to discuss, inter alia, possible commitments on equivalence on animal welfare between the parties”.

## KEY FACTS



Australia was the EU's **10th source of meat imports** in 2021. This was mostly bovine and sheep meat.



The EU is one of the **biggest importers of kangaroo products** accounting for:

**65%** of Australia's kangaroo trade.



Australia is the EU's 2nd source of wool imports, **4th of reptile raw hides and skins** and 5th of tanned or crust hides and bovine skins.

The agreement should include conditional liberalisation, meaning that only products that respect EU equivalent standards would be eligible for preferential EU market access.

This would incentivise Australian producers to increase their animal welfare standards & drive the change citizens want, especially in the light of the upcoming revision of EU animal welfare legislation.



**95%**

of Australian citizens are concerned about farming, and...



**91%**

want reform to address animal welfare in farming.



**93%**

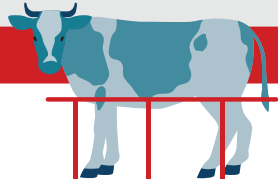
of EU citizens want imported animal products to respect the same animal welfare standards as those applied in the EU.

The Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment for the negotiations found that any scenario for the FTA would have harmful environmental impacts, largely due to intensified beef and sheep meat production, that would not sufficiently be counteracted by Trade and Sustainable Development provisions. As such, it recommended “conditions conducive to a sustainable economy in general and animal welfare in particular.”



The EU must therefore prioritise animal welfare in its discussions with Australia, given that the FTA will likely intensify Australia's lower welfare animal production:

## FEEDLOTS

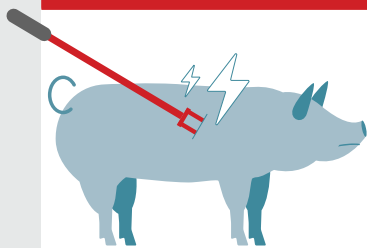


**96%**

of Australian beef exported to the EU comes from feedlots, yarded areas where cattle are closely confined and fed with highly concentrated grain diets. Feedlots adversely impact animal health and welfare, and cause respiratory and digestive issues.

**ASK** Explicitly exclude beef and sheep produced on commercial feedlots from preferential tariffs.

## SLAUGHTER



Australia's slaughter rules enable poor animal welfare standards and permit the use of cruel practices, including the use of electronic prodders.

**ASK** Cooperate with Australia to phase out practices not used in the EU but not legally banned. Once EU slaughter rules are revised, continue to apply these standards to imports.

## PAIN RELIEF

Australian regulations enable producers to carry out **painful procedures without pain relief** and on animals at an older age. Such procedures include:



Disbudding, dehorning and castration of cattle up to 6 months without pain relief.



No pain relief or age limit for cattle spaying.



Mulesing, tail docking, and castration of lambs up to 6 months without pain relief.



Cattle branding doesn't require pain relief.

### ASK

- Cooperate with Australia to phase out practices not used in the EU but not legally banned. Areas for cooperation may include the use of pain relief for all painful procedures for all species, regardless of age, with the aim of phasing out mutilations, and introducing an age limit for these procedures, reduced to <2 months.
- Once EU rules related to mutilations are revised, apply these standards to imports.

## CAGE FREE

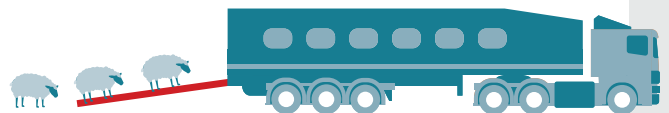
**50%**



of birds are caged in Australian egg production (5.36 million laying hens in 2021). Australia has committed to follow the EU in phasing out conventional battery cages, but only after an extended phase out period until 2036 and enriched cages will not be affected.

**ASK** Given the coming revision of EU animal welfare standards that will phase out caged farming (including enriched cages), market access for Australian eggs and egg products should be conditioned to EU-equivalent standards.

## TRANSPORT

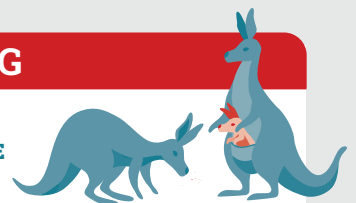


Australia's rules on transporting live animals over long distances are **minimal and virtually unenforceable**. In the EU, cattle and sheep can be transported for just 8 hours, (or 14 if extra conditions are fulfilled), whereas in Australia, due in part to economic concerns arising from the country's size, standards allow for most animals to travel for up to 48 hours without food or water. Many Australian sheep are transported long distances, with over 1 million being sent thousands of kilometres from the west of the country to the east.

**ASK** Imports of ruminant meat should be conditional to the respect of EU-equivalent transport rules. Foster cooperation on phasing out live exports of animals.

## KANGAROO KILLING

**40%** OF KANGAROOS ARE SHOT IN THE NECK OR BODY



The EU is the main market for Australian kangaroo meat, an industry which raises concerns not only about animal welfare, but also conservation and public health. Up to **40% of commercially killed kangaroos are not shot in the head** as required, but in the neck or body. Up to 30% of kangaroos killed are female, leaving 400,000 young kangaroos (joeys) to endure a cruel death each year. Introducing a ban on placing kangaroo-based products on the EU market would be WTO compatible because, like the seal ban, it would be based on ethical concerns of EU citizens related to the killing method of the animal.

**ASK** The EU should introduce legislation to ban the placing on the EU market of kangaroo-based products, given the cruel hunting methods inherent to the production.