

Every delay in ending the shipment of sheep abroad means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

Key points to consider are:

- Live sheep export is inhumane and the treatment of the animals throughout this process is barbaric. To that end I fully support the phase-out with urgent effect.
- The public want certainty that this trade will end. That the phase-out be legislated and commences in this term of parliament. And that it begins and ends as soon as possible.
- I note my support for farmers to receive government support to help them to transition.
- The impact of this trade on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation remains in an unstable position (especially given New Zealand's precedent in ending live export). Defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.
- While the merits of the government's policy to end the trade are not being considered, the extremity of animal welfare needs should and must be considered. This trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.