

Dear Senator,

This is about the ending of live sheep export by sea.

I am aware that the Government has finally decided to end this barbaric practice but I'm concerned about the term "phase out" as it seems vague. Is it possible to give a more definite time frame - that term can really mean anything and, with respect, is sometimes used to avoid doing much at all?

I am willing to support whatever recompense be given to the farmers who are going to have to make this change, and of course it isn't an easy thing for them to have to contemplate. However, is it not also true that the opinion of the general public towards farmers who treat the animals this way is damaging to them? And can this not be seen by the burgeoning amount of people who are becoming vegetarians or vegans?

If I stop to think about the suffering of these sheep I feel both immense sadness and absolute shame that I have voted for governments which allow this horror. One of the main reasons I voted Labour in the last election was because of their promises to end live export.

I want to feel proud of this government, not ashamed.

I want Australia to be seen as a humane nation and a forerunner in putting an end to animal suffering in general.

We just cannot be a nation which relies on cruelty to animals to keep afloat economically.

Yours sincerely,

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