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May 5, 2023

Dear Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry,

I commend you for phasing out live sheep exports.

This phase-out should begin as soon as possible because every delay means more sheep are subjected to inexcusable suffering; from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

I also want certainty that this trade will end and that the phase-out be legislated and commences in this term of parliament.

Plus, I want to register my support for farmers to receive government support to help them through this transition.

This decision will have a positive impact on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation.

Because if we defend this trade it will undermine the public's trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

While the merits of the government's policy to end the trade are not being considered, there is no doubt that this trade is inherently cruel even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

Thank you,

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