

4 May 2023

I write today to voice my support the phase-out of live export of sheep.

I, like my fellow Australians, want certainty on this topic. We want to know when the phase-out will be legislated and when we can export this cruel and shameful practice to be consigned to the past.

I understand that phasing out live export represents a potential problem for farmers. It is the job of the state to guide and support society through periods of transition. If we can subsidise global corporations to the tune of \$5 billion a year to operate fossil fuel mining, we can surely support our Australian farmers to change their business model to one that doesn't include objectively cruel and inhumane practices.

Australia's international reputation is far from spotless, and the ongoing practice of live export is not helping. Our neighbour, New Zealand, with whom we are forever aligned, has just ended this disgraceful practice. Surely we aren't going to be left behind by our progressive little brother! I urge you to work towards making Australasia a bastion of progressive, thoughtful society, that abhors cruelty of any kind.

As a Labor voter, I have high hopes for my government to take meaningful action on this issue. When 'we' won the election, I was filled with hope. Hope that my country could finally become the flourishing, progressive country it could be. A sunshine farm, filled with unforgettable landscapes and bright, vibrant cities. A country of tolerance, kindness and openness. Live export doesn't align with these aims. It's objectively cruel; animals suffer in cramped, hot, horrible conditions, and when they do arrive at their destination – if they make it alive – they are slaughtered in painful and unregulated ways. It just can't be right.