

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT ACTION TO END LIVE EXPORT

4 May 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

As I near my 80th year, I reflect on how the world has changed since I was a young girl. How attitudes and habits and mores have changed, how we think about the world and our place in it has changed. With a new grandson, I venture to hope that he will be able to look back on his life as having seen an end to exploitation of animals for any purpose.

The thought that the live sheep export trade is coming to an end is a miracle. Thank you and your government for this. I wish it went beyond sheep, but I understand progress is slow. It's wonderful we can join New Zealand in being understood as a country that exercises compassion.

If people must continue to eat meat – and hopefully this is something future generations will look back on as incomprehensible – then let us ensure that the meat is processed humanely and efficiently in our own country before exporting for profit. Vacuum packed products must surely facilitate this option.

Farmers and graziers will bemoan – quite rightly – their losses with this action. Let's find a way to encourage them to do their work differently, perhaps by compensation initially, and by incentives to move in a different direction.

Sincerely,